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LD2710132788 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli, SLA Attacks—Some 15 people were killed and 40 wounded in Israeli air raids on Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp and other Palestinian positions in the Sidon area, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

The attacks destroyed several military positions, an UNRWA school, and 15 houses.

The radio said people were still buried alive under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

A DFLP spokesman cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio acknowledged the raids hit one DFLP position near Sidon and another in Al-Na'imah, near Al-Damur.

The IDF spokesman confirmed the raids on "terrorist" targets north of Al-Damur in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio.

The Israeli air raids were followed by a "limited advance operation" by the South Lebanese Army (SLA) in areas east of Sidon, the Voice of Lebanon reported, adding the SLA later withdrew from positions which they occupied for 4 hours.

The SLA killed, wounded, or captured nine members of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council in the attack, the radio said.

Related reports by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon stated that the SLA captured positions of the Nasirite Popular Organization (NPO), killing or capturing seven NPO fighters.

The SLA action was accompanied by heavy shelling of the Mashgharah area in western Al-Biqa', Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

On the Muslim side, Voice of the Mountain radio said the withdrawal of SLA and "occupation" forces from captured positions was the result of a counterattack by fighters of the NPO's Popular Liberation Army.

Three "enemy" officers were taken prisoner, the radio said.

Muslim and nationalist forces declared a state of general alert and sent large numbers of men to confront the SLA advance, Beirut radio noted.

Alternative Army Command—Discussions have begun in West Beirut concerning the formation of a new military command for the five Lebanese Army brigades stationed in areas under Syria's influence, Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH reported.

The paper added that the new command will modernize these brigades and supply them with sophisticated weapons and equipment.

Arab Summit—Baghdad radio announced that Iraq approves calls for an Arab summit conference to discuss the situation in Lebanon, noting that Iraq has affirmed its "enthusiastic support" for an Arab League discussion of the issue.

The Arab League must give priority to ensuring that a "free and secure" election of the Lebanese president is held in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution, the radio added.

In a related development, Amman radio cited a press interview with Jordan's King Husayn in which he said it is high time to convene an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese situation, noting he would shortly hold contacts with Saudi officials on this matter.

Stressing the need to avert the partition and collapse of Lebanon, the king said the problem must be discussed by Arab leaders at the highest levels, regardless of whether a summit is held or not.

Israel: Occupied Territories

Parents of a 3-year-old girl who died in the Khan Yunus hospital claim her death was the result of tear gas inhalation, Jerusalem radio reported.

Three Arab youths were wounded by IDF gunfire during further disturbances in Nabulus, Jerusalem television noted.

Libya

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison dismissed U.S. accusations that Libya is producing chemical weapons as "totally unfounded," Tripoli radio reported.

The bureau suggested the accusations were in preparation for a "new aggression" to be launched against Libya, under new pretexts.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in an address carried on Tripoli television, said the plant the United States alleged is producing chemical weapons is a medicine plant and any attack on it will be "shattered and destroyed."

In his address, Col al-Qadhdhafi said Italy warned him of the impending U.S. attack in 1986 through the Maltese prime minister, but still allowed the U.S. 6th Fleet to sail from Italy.

He proposed completing a nonaggression treaty with Italy, adding the presence of U.S. bases in Italy constitutes Italian aggression against Libya.

In another development, the Khartoum paper AL-SUDANI, cited by MENA, reported Col al-Qadhdhafi held secret talks with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and other ministers in Sudan 23 October.

Saudi Arabia

Assassination—A group called the Islamic Jihad in Hijaz claimed responsibility for assassinating a Saudi diplomat in Turkey, the Radio Free Lebanon reported.

A statement issued in Beirut said the operation was in retaliation for the execution of four members of the group in Saudi Arabia.

PDRY Visitor—PDRY Interior Minister Salih Munassir al-Siyayli met with King Fahd, the crown prince, and the interior minister during a visit to Saudi Arabia, Aden radio reported.

On his return, Al-Siyayli said the visit was "fruitful and positive."

He said talks focused on improving the condition of Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia.

Iran

Foreign Relations—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told visiting Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz there is no reason relations with the Soviet Union should not be expanded now that the problems of the war with Iraq and Soviet involvement in Afghanistan are being solved, Tehran radio reported.

Opposition to Regime—According to the clandestine Iran's Flag of Freedom radio, 120-150 IRGC commanders have been arrested and some have been executed for opposing Hashemi-Rafsanjani and being affiliated with the Mojahedin-e Khalq.

The radio added that "scores" of the regime's "opponents" have been executed recently.

Afghanistan

U.S. Advisers Killed—Three U.S. advisers and their mujahidin escorts were killed in Paktia Province when their car hit a mine, Kabul radio reported.

The mine was planted by a rival resistance group, the radio claimed.

POW Talks—The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan announced Moscow's decision to establish direct contacts with the mujahidin to discuss the release of Soviet POW's, AFP reported.

Pakistan

One person died and 15 others were injured in a bomb blast in Lahore 26 October, Islamabad radio reported.

Two explosions in Islamabad 24 October injured more than 12 people, AFP reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Abu Sharif Hold News Conference

JN2610195288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (WAKH)—The PLO announced this evening that its camps in southern Lebanon were shelled by Israel with the participation of the forces belonging to the agent Antoine Lahd. In a press conference in Baghdad this evening, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said the Israeli move aims to pave the way for a large-scale land attack on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

Referring to some urgent reports he received this afternoon, he said the Lahd forces advanced on the Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir-(Marah) access while Israeli shelling intensified along 'Ayn al-Mir and Baysur and along all roads leading from Sidon to these regions.

These moves came only a few hours after Israeli planes carried out three raids on the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp near Sidon this morning which resulted in loss of life.

'Arafat instructed that urgent memos should be sent to the Arab League to inform it of the dangerous situation in the south. A military communique described the bestial raids against the Palestinian and Lebanese people in the south as revealing the extent of the Israeli and U.S. schemes with the help of the agents in the region against Lebanese and Palestinian people in the camps.

The military communique, which was distributed during the press conference, said these raids would only increase the determination of the Palestinian people to continue fighting against the racist Israeli enemy.

Bassam Abu Sharif, the PLO Executive Committee chairman's information adviser, also said the PLO leadership had received information that the United States had been notified by the Israeli Government of its intention to wage another large-scale attack on the south in which it will use land, sea, and air weapons.

He said these raids have as their target Lebanese villages and cities and Palestinian camps under the slogan of attacking Hizballah and Palestinian forces centers.

Abu Sharif said Israel's aggressions prove once again that the rulers of Israel reject all exerted efforts to find a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East. It also indicates Israel's determination to continue using its war machine and executing organized terrorist schemes against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

He pointed out these aggressions are a clear indication of the crisis existing in the Israeli Government as a result of the glorious popular Palestinian resistance to the occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and as a result of Israel's failure to stop popular joint Lebanese-Palestinian resistance activities of the occupation forces in southern Lebanon and the agents belonging to these forces.

He stressed the PLO is sure these aggressions will fail once again as they did in the past to hit or limit the Palestinian people's resistance in the occupied territories and to trade the Lebanese people for the Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

In answer to the journalists' questions on whether these Israeli moves have anything to do with the Israeli elections or the convening of the PNC, Abu Sharif said Shamir believes intensifying terrorism and oppression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people is part of the election game. His inevitable failure will reflect negatively on him.

If these premeditated and organized aggressions are aimed at creating circumstances which would distance the PLO from concerning itself with the central Palestinian issues and with the PNC's emergency session, then they are deluding themselves. He said the resistance and the uprising will continue until the last occupation forces' soldier leaves the occupied Palestinian territory and southern Lebanon.

He affirmed that historic decisions will be made at the PNC emergency session. The topic of declaring a Palestinian state under occupation will be discussed. The PNC meeting will convene on the date decided upon to make these historic decisions which go hand in hand with the achievements of our people and their resistance of the occupation. This meeting will take its proper context in the reality of this important circumstance.

Abu Sharif Interviewed on Aqaba Meeting, PNC

JN2610202588 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Oct 88 p 16

[Interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Shafiqah Matar in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] [Matar] Why the Aqaba and Baghdad summits?

[Abu Sharif] The Aqaba summit is within the framework of the broad and intensive political moves Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] recently carried out to mobilize Arab support for the decision the PNC is expected to adopt. The meeting with King Husayn has come in the wake of many visits by several Palestinian delegations to Jordan following the decision to disengage administrative and legal links betwen Jordan and the West Bank.

A very positive atmosphere prevailed during the meeting and agreement was reached during this meeting to carry out coordination among Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO on the efforts under way to convene an effective international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Agreement was also reached to exert political efforts on the regional and international level to support the Palestinians' struggle for the establishment of an independent state. Several members of the delegation which accompanied Brother Abu 'Ammar stayed behind in Jordan to follow up the regulation of the relationship between the two sides as well as the political action plan to support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

It is well known that the various PNC sessions had affirmed the need to establish unique relations with Jordan and a confederation between the Palestinian state and Jordan. As for the Baghdad meeting, it also is within the framework of these intensive political moves and of the coordination between the PLO and Iraq which are bound by a strategic alliance.

[Matar] Some say it is preferable to proclaim a Palestinian state before the Israeli and U.S. elections while others claim the opposite.

[Abu Sharif] The proclamation of the Palestinian state is a Palestinian decision stemming from the Palestinian people's supreme national interest and is in line with the development and escalation of the popular uprising against the occupation. It is a historic step on the road to regaining our right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. The timing of this decision has nothing to do with the elections others will hold.

The postponement of the extraordinary PNC session to 12 November has to do with the state of affairs in the venue that has been set for this meeting and not as some press agency reports had claimed it was the result of Arab and international pressure to hold the PNC session after the Israeli and U.S. elections.

[Matar] Once convened, will the PNC officially proclaim an independent Palestinian state, the formation of a provisional government, or will it leave this to the PLO Central Council? Will the Unified National Leadership in the occupied territories submit a working paper to the PNC?

[Abu Sharif] The PNC will discuss the project of establishing a state, or independence, as well as several other issues, including the formation of a provisional government, and the proposal Brother Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO Executive Committee had discussed, that of the acceptance of a short transition period during which the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be placed under UN supervision to allow the Palestinian people to voice their opinion on the various issues concerning them in complete freedom and far from the occupation.

The PNC will also discuss the political communique this historic PNC session will issue on all the topics listed on its agenda. The Palestinian command will discuss these issues and will submit separate working papers to the PNC on each of these issues for discussion prior to deciding on them.

On the possibility of an Israeli attack against the PNC during its meetings, Brother Bassam Abu Sharif said the information the PLO command has obtained and which was confirmed by more than one source clearly points out the Israeli Inner Cabinet had adopted a decision to carry out terrorist operations against the PLO Executive Committee chairman, Palestinian command members, and against several PLO offices abroad.

He added that the parties tasked with these operations are following them up in order to carry them out. He said this plan began with the assassination of leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and that the Mosad in cooperation with Western intelligence services and an Arab intelligence service are still proceeding with this plan.

However, the PLO has taken the necessary security measures in this respect and Brother Abu 'Ammar has issued strict orders to be cautious and alert to what the Israelis are planning. It goes without saying that stringent security measures will be taken during the PNC session.

On reports a foreign country is ready to protect the PNC session during its meetings, Bassam Abu Sharif said there are specialized groups from the PLO which are following up these security measures.

Al-Quds Radio Denounces Calls To Support Peres

JN2610190688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1605 GMT 26 Oct 88

["Article" by political editor: "The Killers' Elections"]

[Text] What can we say? What can we say when we see some Arab and Palestinian leaders, particularly Palestinians with 'Arafat at their forefront, asking our people in Palestine to vote for the Labor Party? What can we say when we hear 'Arafat describing our people in Palestine as Israeli Arabs? He calls our people in the areas occupied in 1948 the Israeli Arabs. What can we say when some leaders are devoting their activities in the service of Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin? Some of these leaders have become employees in the Zionist Labor Party's elections campaign. What can we say to all this?

First, we must reply to this question before asking others. Has the pan-Arab liberation movement receded? Where are pan-Arab sentiments? Has buffoonery become a synonym of cleverness? Is it a cleverness that serves the homeland or a cleverness that is at the expense of the homeland? These are questions which are haphazardly being posed at this time. At this time, we see leaders who become the peddlers of the enemy's goods and leaders who abolish their people's nationality and turn them into citizens of the enemy's entity. It is completely wrong for some leaders to place themselves at the service of their enemy.

What can we say while we hear and see this support that is being garnered for Shim'on Peres, Rabin, and the Labor Party, as if this party will come up with the

remedy and the magic solution? It seems we have forgotten that Rabin and his army are practicing an iron-fist policy against our Palestinian Arab people, that Rabin is the one who has been giving orders to open fire on our people, on our children, young men, women, and elders, and that it is Rabin's army which uproots olive trees and demolishes houses. This is the party on whose side they want our people to stand and whose representatives to the Zionist Knesset they want elected.

Those who are promoting and campaigning for this party forget it was the Labor Party which waged war against our nation in 1956. It was also the same Labor Party which fought our nation in 1967 and the one which allied itself with Begin's party during the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Those who are promoting the Zionist elections inside and outside occupied Palestine forget that all the Zionist parties, and all the election tickets, irrespective of their appellation, have reached an agreement on the following points:

1. The nonrecognition of the Palestinian people.

2. The opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

3. The reaffirmation of the special relationship with the United States and the imperialist camp.

4. The maintenance of the Arab homeland in a state of apprehension and fragmentation.

5. Support for the most reactionary forces in the Arab homeland and dealing blows to the forces of liberation in it.

6. The consolidation of Egypt's linkage with the imperialist-Zionist camp.

7. The encouragement of Jewish immigration to the Zionist entity.

8. The reduction, as much as possible, of Arab population density in Palestine.

9. The maintenance of Jerusalem united under Zionist control.

These are the points on which all the Zionist parties are in agreement. Anything else is pure deception. In clear terms, this means that those who campaign for the election of some Zionist parties and those Arabs who support this or that party support and are in favor of the above points which are detrimental to our Palestinian Arab people and to our Arab nation.

What can we say to all this? The answer to this question lies with our heroic Palestinian Arab people. They have the answer by continuing to cling to the areas of Palestine occupied in 1948, by refusing to proceed to the Zionist ballot boxes, and by refusing to ride on the bandwagon of these parties and the tickets of the killers who have a long criminal record against our Palestinian Arab people since 1947.

Our people have the answer. Their answer will come through abstaining from participating in the elections and through their refusing to cover up for the crimes of the criminals or to participate in their crimes.

Our people can do a lot to practically reply to this and to demonstrate they are capable of enhancing their Palestinian identity. They can do so through their rejection of the Zionist entity with all its parties, army, and settlers. We know very well that our people are capable of doing so.

As for those who have agreed to become brokers in the service of Rabin, Palestinian blood will continue to sustain the flame igniting the revolution and burning all tamperers. God supports us. Victory is imminent. Let us proceed together on the road to the liberation of land and man.

PNSF Statement Denounces Aqaba Meeting

JN2510122588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Statement issued by the PNSF on 24 October; place not given]

[Text] In its meeting on 24 October 1988, the PNSF reviewed the situation and developments on the Arab level and the situation in Lebanon and in the Palestinian arena and its accelerating developments. The PNSF particularly paused at the dangerous moves represented by the meeting held recently in Aqaba and its dangerous dimensions.

The PNSF denounces this meeting and condemns its results, which come within the framework of attempts aimed at implementing the Camp David policy. The PNSF warns against joining the U.S. solutions, against coordination with Zionist entity sides, and against involvement in the Zionist elections game. These moves will greatly harm the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people's national rights, and the PLO and its struggle and national line.

The PNSF urges our people's masses in the occupied territories, the masses of the valiant uprising, to confront these conspiracies and foil all the liquidation plots. It calls on all national Palestinian forces, factions, and individuals to close ranks to foil this plot.

Signed: The PNSF

'Uprising' Radio To Begin Rome Broadcasts

LD2510215988 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1954 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Rome, 25 Oct (KUNA)—The radio of the Palestinian uprising will commence its official broadcasts here tomorrow, Wednesday, for 1 full hour per day. The official broadcast which is run by the independent left-wing parties comes after a successful experimental broadcast carried out last Sunday from the stations of Radio Popolare, or what is called the People's Radio.

It is expected that the broadcast will start its programs live, without any recording, in Arabic on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays of every week. The programs will discuss the issues of the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and will hold dialogues with the Italian public in Rome about the just nature of the Palestinian cause.

The director of Radio Popolare, Paolo Biobi [name as received] said the programs on the uprising will be broadcast in the capital, Rome, and all over the Lazio District.

Biobi said that intensive contacts are being carried out with local Italian stations in [word indistinct] Italian districts to unify the broadcast of the programs of the uprising in the aforementioned 3 days.

Newspapers, journalists, peace groups, left-wing parties, and intellectuals, in addition to the Union of Palestinian students, will contribute to the preparation of programming for the hour of broadcasting devoted to the Palestinian uprising.

'Revised Copy' of Call No 27 Issued

JN2710103088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The popular and national committees have issued a revised copy of Call No 27 declaring a general strike on Saturday, 29 October 1988, in commemoration of the Kafr Qasim massacre. This cancels the observation of the strike today, 26 October. Thus, the general strike will be observed on Saturday 29 October.

PLO Issues Statement on Rashid Case

NC2410193488 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The PLO released a statement through its office in Athens today denouncing the U.S. and Israeli secret agencies for preparing the ground for a new terrorist action—similar to the "City of Poros" incident—with the aim of undermining the close friendly relations which link the Palestinian and Greek peoples.

The statement stresses: These agencies are behind the nonexistent organization Direct Revolutionary Action, which last week threatened the Greek Government with violent retaliatory acts if Muhammad Rashid were not released. The PLO maintains that the Palestinian being detained by the Greek authorities is named Muhammad Hamdan. According to the statement, he is a member of the PLO and has no connection with another organization.

The statement concludes by expressing once again the PLO's full trust in the integrity of Greek justice and respect for its officials.

Egypt

Mubarak Message to Arab Leaders on Aqaba Talks

NC2710141288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 88

[text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today sent messages to the kings and presidents of Arab states, briefing them on the outcome of the Baghdad and Aqaba summits, Egypt's stand on current developments, ande the significance of action to give an impetus to the peace march and to maintain Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Arab Diplomats

NC2710133588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a meeting today with the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Cairo.

Sudanese Ambassador al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif, who is also the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps, stated that Dr 'Abd al-Majid spoke about the outcome of the Baghdad and Aqaba summits, as well as the meeting which U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers held at the United Nations.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also touched on international developments within the EC, the U.S. and Israeli elections, and Soviet and Arab stands after the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

The Sudanese ambassador pointed out that the Palestinian issue has taken a better turn, thanks to President Mubarak's initiative, which paved the way for the Aqaba summit. He said President Mubarak's initiative on the Aqaba summit constituted a positive step, aimed at bringing about Jordanian-Palestinain coordination and achieving a full understanding between both parties. The Sudanese ambassador expresed the hope that Arab countries will respond to the call to hold a summit on Lebanon, in order to arrive at a unified Arab stand that is free from oneupmanship and will serve the entire Arab nation.

PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal stated that the Aqaba summit had succeeded in establishing clear-cut principles for Arab action, primarily Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian action, in the near future, with a view to meeting the requirements fo the present stage.

'Abd al-Majid Cited on Tabah Issue

NC2610115188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that Egypt's success in restoring Tabah by peaceful means is a message to the international community that resorting to peaceful struggle can lead to resolution of international disputes. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', he expressed his hope that Israel will honor and implement the international arbitration panel's ruling. 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt's foreign policy is based on three fundamental axes: peace, stability, and development. These goals, he added, are in harmony with the interests of Egyptian national security, which is at the forefront of Egyptian foreign policy goals.

Abu Ghazalah on Weapons Production With West

NC2610101988 Cairo MENA in English 0752 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] After attending Navy Day celebrations in Abu-Qir, Alexandria, yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence and Military Production Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah told reporters Egypt was cooperating with Britain, Italy and the United States in the manufacture of weapons. He said relations with Britain were good and that he had recently held talks with the British defence minister when he visited Egypt to attend the commemoration of the battle of Al-'Alamayn.

Abu Ghazalah said the note of understanding he signed with United States Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci gave Egypt the right to join in U.S. weapons research and to manufacture the United States' advanced M-1 tank either wholly or partially.

He said that joint exercises carried out by Egyptian and Jordanian forces last month were successful, and declared that Egypt was prepared to hold joint exercises with other Arab states.

United States Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci will visit Egypt on Monday and will meet with President Mubarak.

Carlucci, who was invited to Egypt by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, will discuss military cooperation between the two countries in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Arms Agreement With Arab Countries Signed

JN2710072388 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Oct 88 p 18

[Text] Cairo—AL-QABAS has learned from informed diplomatic sources that Egypt has signed armament agreements worth $235 million with some Arab countries during the past 6 months. Under these agreements, Egypt will supply these countries with military equipment, weapons, and ammunition produced by the Arab Military Industrialization Organization [AMIO] plants.

The Arab countries will also obtain the Fahd armored personnel carrier, 'Ayn al-Saqr and SAM-7 missiles, radios, ammunition, and some radar systems for the purpose of reinforcing these countries' military defenses.

These sources added that Egypt is trying to increase its military cooperation with the Arab countries to market its military production, thus backing up its defense factories as well as AMIO's plants and increasing their production capacity to $1 billion per year rather than the current $300 million. This cooperation is also aimed at expanding the industry of assembling the French Alpha Jet and Mirage-2000 aircraft, the Chinese aircraft (F-7), and the Brazilian training aircraft and to begin production of the British Gazelle light helicoter.

Cairo diplomatic reports say that Egypt has informed the Arab countries that founded AMIO of its readiness to set up AMIO factories in these states so that there will be more than one center for the manufacture of weapons in the Arab countries.

Abu Ghazalah Leaves on Official Visit to Morocco

NC2610123788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and miniser of defense and war production, left Cairo today for Rabat on a several days' official visit to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II, in his capacity as the Moroccan defense minister. During his visit, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah is scheduled to hold talks with Moroccan officials on ways to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and Morocco, particularly in the military sphere.

Awqaf Minister Leaves for Turkey 26 Oct

NC2610123188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Minister of Awqaf Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub left Cairo for Turkey today on a visit of several days. In a predeparture statement, he said he bears a written message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for Turkish President Kenan Evren. He added that during the visit, he will discuss ways to promote bilateral relations, especially in the religious and cultural spheres. Dr Mahjub is also expected to discuss the outstanding issue of endowment between the two countries as well as cooperation in propagating Islam.

Soviet Envoy Meets Al-Baz, Praises Peace Efforts

NC2610161888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has praised President Husni Mubarak's work to give an impetus to the peace efforts in the Middle East. He said that President Mubarak has undertaken an important initiative in that direction through the Aqaba and Baghdad summits.

This statement came following the Soviet ambassador's meeting today with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The ambassador stressed that positive results will come from President Mubarak's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East region. He added that there is an agreement between Egypt and the Soviet Union on the importance of holding the international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The Soviet ambassador said that he and Dr al-Baz discussed the means of boosting bilateral relations and the coming meeting of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee which is scheduled to be held before the end of the year. He added that they also reviewed the results of the Aqaba and Baghdad summits.

GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo

NC2610164888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Heinz-Dieter Winter left Cairo this evening after a 5-day visit, during which he met with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The GDR deputy foreign minister also held talks with Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sami Haybah, which focused on the Palestinian issue, the situation in the Gulf, and bilateral relations.

The GDR deputy foreign minister stressed the GDR's support for the convening of the international peace conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the dispute, including the PLO. He also denounced "Israel's aggressive practices in the occupied Arab territories".

The GDR official was seen off at Cairo airport by Ambassador Sami Haybah and staff members of the GDR Embassy in Cairo.

Norwegian Defense Minister Leaves Cairo 26 Oct

NC2610084388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0733 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Holst left Cairo for home this morning at the conclusion of a 3-day visit, during which he held talks with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on ways to promote military ties between Egypt and Norway. Holst, who arrived in Cairo last Sunday, was seen off at the airport by Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, the Armed Forces chief of staff.

Suez Canal Authority Head Discusses Plans

NC2610211388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2019 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Eng 'Izzat 'Adil, head of the Suez Canal Authority, will hold a news conference tomorrow afternoon at which he will announce the new Suez Canal transit tolls for 1989. The new tolls will come into effect as of 1 January 1989. He will hold the news conference at the Authority's headquarters in Cairo.

Eng 'Izzat 'Adil stated that the Suez Canal Authority has all the capabilities to lift and salvage the ships sunk in the Gulf now that the war has stopped, adding that this work can be done by the Authority or in cooperation with other international companies working in this field.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the head of the Suez Canal Authority said that letters in this connection have been sent to some Arab embassies in Cairo.

The head of the Suez Canal Authority noted that the Authority is prepared to provide all fraternal Arab states with all maritime services, including trained maritime technicians to replace Far East workers, particularly in the shipyards and ship repair works.

Eng 'Izzat 'Adil said that the Arab Fund for Economic Development has expressed its readiness to finance the study of the plan of the third phase for the development and widening of the Suez Canal so as to serve international maritime navigation.

Eng 'Izzat 'Adil concluded by saying the Suez Canal Authority is studying requests to build ships for foreign owners at the Port Said shipyard. He said this subject will be crystallized and announced in the future.

Paper Urges Arab Summit on Lebanon

NC2710050988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2207 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR denounces the negative stand some Arab leaders are adopting regarding the calamity that threatens the partition of Lebanon. The paper says that Egypt, represented by President Husni Mubarak, has drawn the attention of the Arab nation to the reality of what is happening in Lebanon. President Mubarak called for convening an urgent Arab summit conference to dot the i's and cross the t's. The paper reiterated President Mubarak's question: If the Arab summit does not convene now, when will it convene?

In its Thursday commentary, the paper says that apathy and disregard for the real danger the Lebanese issue poses to the Arab world raises doubts and perplexing questions about the reasons for not immediately calling an emergency Arab summit. This is needed to forestall the serious situation to which Lebanon is subjected—this country whose stability was the object of envy before the evil claws began to ravage it.

Commentary Blames Shamir for Camp David Freeze

NC2710142988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The Camp David Formula for the Palestinian Issue Is Dead and Buried"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak holds Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir responsible for freezing the Camp David accord, saying that it was Shamir who rejected the accord once before and froze it. He now says that he prefers Camp David and wants to make it the basis for negotiations, while he was the one who had changed the spirit and framework of the accord. President Mubarak pointed out that there are several initiatives on the scene, and that the Camp David formula became obsolete when it was frozen by Shamir in 1981.

It is known that Yitzhaq Shamir rejects the convocation of an international peace conference and demands negotiations on the basis of granting the Palestinians a superficial autonomy rule, provided that the Israeli occupation remains and the Palestinians continue to be politically, economically and militarily dependent on Israel. This demand by Shamir is too late. Besides, no one knows with whom Shamir wishes to negotiate. All parties concerned, primarily Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians, demand the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference, which the five permanent members of the UN Security Council would attend. The Palestinian side, which the Israeli prime minister refuses to accept as a real representative in any peace negotiations, is now preparing to proclaim an independent state.

Despite its preoccupation with the elections, Israel is anxiously awaiting such a step. Even after the elections are over, Israel will find itself required to define its stance, because all signs indicate that the new state will gain support from the Soviet Union, the Eastern bloc, a large sector of the nonaligned countries, if not all of them, in addition to certain countries in western Europe.

These are not our own words; Shamir himself said this in one of his electoral speeches. He said that a world war may break out if a Palestinian state is proclaimed, because Israel will try to eliminate it by force. This, according to Shamir, may lead to a world war. It is clear that these remarks are oneupmanship for the sake of the elections. Because the Palestinian state, when it is proclaimed, will not engage in war with Israel. It will rather concern itself primarily with getting rid of the Israeli occupation, sos that it can become a state built on real foundations. Besides, it is expected to be build on international legitimacy. This means an implicit recognition of Israel, thus refusing Israeli excuses that the new state will pose a threat to Israel's security.

At a press conference in Ismailiyah following his talks with French President Francois Miterrand, President Mubarak called on the Palestinians to agree to the international conference. He said that relying on Resolution 181 on the Palestine partition alone is not enough to build a Palestinian state. The borders of a such a state must be announced in advance so that the Israelis may not think that this state includes Israel entirely, a thing which may further complicate the issue.

In fact, the Palestine National Council faces a very critical, complex, and historic responsibility. Thus, its resolutions must be calculated realistically and precisely. The tripartite summit in Aqaba constituted a positive and important step in two respects: by paving the way for the proclamation of the Palestinian state, and by practically providing a favorable atmosphere in the Arab world for convening the international conference. Hence the significance of coordination between Jordan and the PLO. This coordination is bound to remove many obstacles which impede the settlement of the entire Middle East crisis on the international level.

AL-AHRAM on 'Alternative' Before Israeli Voter

JN2610201088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Oct 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Confusion"]

[Text] William Quant, former U.S. national security adviser, was absolutely correct when he predicted that Israeli society will continue its divisions and confusion about the best solution for the Middle East conflict even after the forthcoming elections.

Whether Shamir or Peres wins, the real issue that forcefully presents itself in the Israeli arena is the transfer of different forms of conflict to it. Ten months after the start of the Palestinian revolutionary uprising, despite their brutality and the failure of means to suppress it, the choice is now imposed on the Israeli voter. He will have to choose between the continued use of force, with all its expected escalations and what may result in signs of fragmentation in Israeli society, and the logical view, which calls for the need to search for a peaceful solution that guarantees security for all sides without any prejudice and recognizes the legitimate rights of others as it recognizes the voter's rights.

A sound call was made by the Israeli intellectuals themselves a long time ago. The call, which was proven by events, says that the internal society itself is fragmented and cannot be united together except by the emergence of a tangible external threat. It also says that the siege of peace is the only way to shake the foundations of this society and fragment it.

Today, when this siege began to actually appear and when its first signs began emerging, as represented by the acute internal differences even a long time before the elections, the real confrontation, which the whole of this society must fight, is to restructure itself in a way that will permit it to coexist honorably with the facts of the age and the developments in the situations, and to become compatible with peace formulas and mass itself for their sake, not as "a danger that threatens the future of Israel", as claimed by some of its leaders now in agreement with their old, rotten methods, but as the best way to guarantee its security.

The logic of these rulers can be defeated easily through a challenge with one's self and a search in one's conscience. If the confrontation of wars unite the Israeli ranks and strengthen them, and if the confrontations of peace are, as they imagine, traps for coming wars and dangers that should strengthen the unity of the Israeli ranks, then what is the alternative that remains in order to live in a safe future, after the October war and the uprising have proven that wars and the confrontation of alleged dangers cost Israel dearly, and may make it lose in the long term, as shown by both the past and present.

Libya

U.S. Claims on Chemical Weapons Refuted

LD2610161288 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] U.S. Administration officials continue to issue statements about the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, trying to harm it and distort its image in the world. Thus the issue of Libya creating a chemical weapons factory has often been repeated recently. Commenting on these statements the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stresses the following points:

First, U.S. officials' repetitious statements on the creation of chemical weapons, factories in the Jamahiriyah are totally unfounded. The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stresses that the Jamahiriyah has no intention whatsoever of producing this type of weapon.

Second, the Great Jamahiriyah's interest in chemical industries is no greater than the interest displayed by any other state in the peaceful benefits of these industries, such as medicines and agriculture and similar things.

Third, such hostile statements by U.S. Administration officials are nothing new. For some time they have been part of this administration's policy toward toward the Jamahiriyah. Because the accusations of terrorism made against the Jamahiriyah failed under this policy new accusations have been made about the Jamahiriyah producing chemical arms.

Fourth, we wonder whether it would not be better for a superpower like the United States to try to destroy its factories and arsenal of such totally destructive weapons. Why does the United States ignore the zionist enemy which has a nuclear capability and chemical arms. Furthermore the United States signs agreements with the Zionist enemy and aids its development in these fields.

Fifth, the Great Jamahiriyah previously announced its adherence to international charters on weapons of total destruction. It reiterates its total adherence to these charters.

Finally, we have no explanation for the renewal of this hostile U.S. campaign other than considering it as preparation for a new aggression against the Jamahiriyah using new pretexts.

Al-Qadhdhafi Marks Date of Italian Invasion

LD2710072588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1943 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Television address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi marking the anniversary of the Italian invasion of Libya; date, place not given; video shows Al-Qadhdhafi seated facing camera—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Dear brothers: The fact that there is a painful page in our history gives us a lot of pain, so much so that a day of mourning is announced in sadness, in pain and with a feeling that revenge is still a sacred [word indistinct] inflaming and burning our feelings and the depth of our existence.

Evil men and imperialists changed the life of many people from happiness and tranquility to sadness and suffering. Among these peoples are the Libyan Arab people who are not the only ones to have been burned by the fire of colonialism [words indistinct] but are among those who have been the target of campaigns of evil from Europe. I do not want to spend too much time describing these evils but at the beginning, and as an introduction, I would like to warn the Libyans, the Arab nation, the peoples of the world and our generations and coming generations about a dangerous historical phenomenon which repeats itself in every period and which confirms that history repeats itself.

It is not a question of Italy's colonization of Libya in 1911 as this did not happen out of nothing; neither is it a devilish whim which came over Italy in 1911. I would like to make you understand that this has happened a few times. I would like to point out to you that colonialism repeats itself if the conditions are right.

The maps which you see around us confirm disturbing historical facts, yet we must benefit from them and learn lessons from history. This map [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to a map on the wall] shows European advance to the east. As a result, Barqa was invaded and colonized in the 6th century BC, ie. 600 years before Christ, about 2,500 years ago. Colonialism does not date back to 1911, but European colonialism arrived in the region of Barqa over 2,500 years ago and colonized it and established its capital there and named it (Orina).

Afterwards, Alexander the Macedonian, of whom you have heard in the verse on the Seven Sleepers [in the Koran] as the two-horned man, left Macedonia and attacked Barqa, Egypt, Syria, and the entire Orient; he also attacked Asia Minor and Central Asia and moved on to Persia and India forming an empire in the 3d and the middle of the 4th century BC [as heard], ie. in the year 333 BC. Thus, over 2,200 years ago colonialism left from Europe and invaded the Arab region and the region which is now considered a Muslim region, that is the Middle and Near East.

Alexander the Macedonian died and left after him the regime of Ptolemy which ruled over Egypt and this rule extended to Barqa. The last rule of the Ptolemy regime was the remnants of Greek colonialism over this region. In the end Cleopatra appeared in Egypt and she surrendered the region to the Romans, in the same way that Al-Sadat surrendered the region to the Americans. Sovereignty was transferred from the Greeks to the Romans.

This second map [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to a map] shows us the Roman invasion. This took place in the 14th century [as heard] and that took place in the 1st century before Christ. [passage omitted]

Even those who cannot read and write can understand that the issue is not simply the year 1911, that colonialism repeats itself. Now we are independent and free but these maps show us that every 500 of 1,000 years, Europe will return to colonize this region anew. [passage omitted]

The main stages are Greek, Roman, and Byzantine invasions. Five hundred years later, in the 11th century after Christ, the crusader invasion came. You see, from before Christ to after Christ. This means ever 500, every 1,000 years, the Europeans come back again to colonize us. [passage omitted]

In the 19th century—see this [video shows Al- Qadhdhafi pointing at map] the 11th century, the 19th century—after 800 years came modern colonialism, modern European colonialism. This is Spain colonizing Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro, and France colonizing Algeria in 1830, colonizing Tunisia in 1881—sorry, France colonizes Tunisia in 1881, colonizes Morocco and in 1830 it colonized Algeria; it colonized Syria, Lebanon, and this region. Do you see this red, [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to map] see France, it is almost as if this were a Greek map, before Christ.

Britain set off from the northern hemisphere and colonized Egypt in 1881. It colonized Palestine and surrendered it to the Jews in 1948. It surrendered it to them to form a state and massacre the Arabs living on it and then call it Israel. That is Palestine. Britain also colonized Iraq and the Arabian peninsula.

Italy, on its part, colonized Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and then Libya in 1911. We arrive to 1911 through successive waves of colonialism, Greek colonialism, Roman colonialism, Byzantine colonialism, crusader colonialism, and the modern colonialism of which we are talking now.

Will these waves stop at this fourth wave—after the Greek wave, the Roman wave, the Byzantine wave, the wave of Crusader colonialism, the crusaders' invasion, and the wave of contemporary colonialism, in the 19th century? Will we stop at these four waves? Does history consist of four waves? Is the colonialist onslaught and are the colonialist ambitions predestined to happen only four times? Not at all.

It would be naive and stupid to say that colonialism is over because after we said that Greek colonialism was over it returned 1,000 years later. We also said that Roman colonialism was over and yet it repeated itself 1,000 years later. We said that Byzantine colonialism was over but it came back 500 years later. We said that the Crusaders' colonialism was over and it returned 500 years later. And then modern colonialism arrived.

Shall we say that it is over? Not at all. If we say that it is over it is tantamount to saying that colonialism was over in any of the previous periods [as heard]. Colonialism never ends. Europe is constantly threatening North Africa and the Middle East. This scene of destruction in front of us [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing at photos of the damage caused by the U.S. raid], Ben Ashur Street, this house in Bab al-'Aziziyah, and this office, these were all destroyed in 1986. In other words, ambitions continue and they are expanding. We said that at the most the British Isles might have ambitions over us and colonize us.

Now the Americans from across the Atlantic have started foaming at the mouth and it wants to swallow this [sentence unfinished]. This new Alexander the Macedonian coming from America, Augustus coming from Rome, Julius coming from Rome, Peter the hermit coming from Europe, Mussolini, Grazziani, any of Europe's despicable colonial dogs who have disfigured their history of mankind can come again at any time. And now a rabid dog is coming, and he is now moribund—Reagan. Therefore, rabid dogs are not finished and they are still salivating over these regions. Colonialism is not over yet.

Now we come to the year 1911—but we were exposed to a new invasion in 1948, to a new crusade, to the establishment of a base in Palestine, a return to the Crusaders' kingdoms. There was the Kingdom of the Temple which Salah al-Din has destroyed. This kingdom has been revived and the Israelis transferred their capital to Jerusalem, to revive the Kingdom of the Temple once again. [passage omitted]

We are now witnessing provocations along the southern flank of the Arab world: southern Sudan, southern Libya, southern Mauritania, which coincide with an advance on Palestine, with the bombardment now being carried out in southern Lebanon and in the al-Biqa' valley, the threats against Syria, the bombardment of Libya, and the current threats against Libya. Even this morning the United States threatened that Libya had built a medical factory [as heard]. It said that Libya had built a factory to manufacture poisonous gases which is one of the biggest plants known to U.S. intelligence.

The United States allows the Israelis to manufacture atom bombs and nuclear missiles with a range of 4,000 km [as heard], which launched the Israeli satellite with U.S. finance within the context of the U.S. Star Wars program. This project was financed by the U.S. Star Wars program. And the Israelis are now manufacturing germs for germ warfare and poisonous gases. Yet the United States does not protest and does not threaten them with the destruction of these plants. The United States has enabled them to manufacture germs, to manufacture chemical weapons, poisonous gases, and atomic bombs which are more dangerous than chemical weapons.

Libya is building a plant for medicines which will be open before the world--and the ambassadors of foreign countries will come to see this plant and see for themselves that it is a plant for the manufacture of medicines. Current talk constitutes a new form of terrorism being waged by the biggest state in the world against a small state. This does not scare us, this makes us more determined to face the challenge and makes us more determined. This plant will open and we shall defend it.

And any attack against it will be repulsed and considered an unjustified act of aggression against our sovereignty, our factories and against a vital facility for manufacturing medicines. Will the United States destroy medicine manufacturing plants throughout the world, or will it destroy the factory in Libya?

The objective is not a factory; rather it is the destruction of the Arab nation and the destruction of its capacilities. But we shall challenge this because we realize that the battle is a battle of strength between us and this enemy which is being constantly repeated. Consequently, dear brothers, we cannot turn aside, We can only build our strength and confront the challenge by a challenge. And this factory must be opened under the protection of force, and continue to produce under the protection of strength. It is a civilian factory and we will not allow any attack or aggression against it.

Aggression against it should be shattered and destroyed. This should be our decision and this is indeed our decision. We view this as official international terrorism, state terrorism, practised by this crazy state which I hope will one day recover its senses, but only after the blows of people everywhere—from the Philippines, to Panama, Nicaragua, Central America, Latin America, passing through its other bases in the world—make it dizzy.

The other issue in this talk on this big, historic day of mourning, is that we are facing a painful scene, a tragic page in our history, in the history of the Mediterranean, and in the history of international relations. We are not facing colonialism in the traditional sense, nor aggression by state against another. We are facing an ugly thing

and I find strange the manner in which history has recorded it. But it has been confirmed to us that history records all tragedies remorselessly. The proof is that it has recorded without pause this page which is horrific, painful, and shameful for all mankind. It has recorded how Italy was 77 years ago and how it was 70 years and 60 years ago—and this is a very short period.

Italy which committed these crimes against the Libyan people could not have been a state of humans, and I hope it is not like this now. It was nothing but a group of satans stripped of conscience and of humanity. They came out from behind their shields and became enemies of mankind and humanity. They joined the ranks of satans. On such a day, on 26 October 1911, after its defeat in the heroic Al-Shatt battle, Italy embarked on revenge against our people [passage indistinct] and placed them in the vaults of the Islamic Arts and Crafts School which we must visit now—journalists should visit—and then they were transferred to Italy.

Tragic lists, but what gives rise to anger is not the brutality of the Italians as they stripped themselves of humanity—because they were scoundrels, and because they do not deserve the description of human being—what gives rise to anger is how when Libya became independent in 1951 or 1952, thousands of Libyans had been expelled to Italy only 40 years ago. [as heard] A large number of them could still have been alive. How come no one said this country had become independent and 5,000 Libyans were transferred to Italy. Where are they now?

Most certainly, a large number of them were alive at the time, 30 or 40 years ago. A large number among them were alive. How can we forget 5,000 of our people. How can we laugh, eat, drink, and go to Italy, travel to Italy, buy from it, eat and drink from it, and take from it illegal sinful possessions and infernal trees [bearing bitter fruit—mentioned in the Koran].

How is it that the king of Libya at the time, and his entourage, his ministers and the prime ministers, delegates and ambassadors of Libya, from 1952 to 1969, said nothing about 5,000 Libyans, men, women, and children who were transported to Italy. Where are they? They go to Italy like dogs, drink wine, dance there like mad people, and do not ask where the cemeteries of our people are. Imagine, o brothers, if other tragedies took place and 5,000 Libyans are transported to these states which have attacked us. Let us say America, for example, commits aggression against us- - since Italy at that time was like America now.

Let us suppose that America commits aggression against Libya and takes from it—or Italy against Libya—and takes from it 5,000 men and women. Will we accept that our children and their children forget after 40 years, as if we were animals? If a state takes from another state 5,000 head of cattle, camels, sheep, or dogs, hell will break loose. And yet this state did not protest, ask, complain, or assume its right. How is it—we are dealing with human beings. We are not China or India, our population was small at that time, we were a million people, how is it that this number among them are deported and we say independence has been achieved?

All right, independence was achieved over 5,000 bodies which were transported to Italy and their fate is unknown. How come the Libyans do not talk? This puzzles me. How come they did not say that 5,000 people were deported from this country?

As for the Westerners their cadavers perished in the First and Second World Wars on a land which is not theirs. They are cadavers because they were killed on a land which was not theirs and over a lost cause. They fought on Libyan soil and perished here. Every year the delegations come. [passage indistinct]

The UN General Assembly supported our right in 1975, 1981, 1982, 1983, and in 1984. It supported the right of Libya and noted the enormous damage it sustained.

We, o brothers, we say to the Italians on this day that we are not really facing traditional colonialism or aggression, we are facing something else, an extermination operation carried out by Italy against a people which is its neighbor on the Mediterranean Sea, and it is not possible for us to forget our people, never. We request 5,000 Libyans, children, women, men, and youths, a large number of whom are included by name in this black or red list. What is their crime? Where were they transported to? Where were they buried? Where are their children and their grandchildren? Where are their children?

As of today this list will be taught to our children in schools. We will tell them that there is a state which faces you across the Mediterranean which transported your aunts, uncles, and grandfathers to its own country. It transported them from these areas which are mentioned here. You must not forget to take revenge. Unless we and Italy come to an understanding over the catastrophe it has inflicted on us we will have no peace of mind nor rest easy and we will not feel tranquil either inside our outside our graves. These graves will burst while we rest inside them unless we avenge ourselves by whatever method.

At the moment we are talking with Italy as a friendly state, in a friendly manner, and through international laws. We demand a solution to this problem which will create aggravation in the future. We want a peaceful solution. Unless we reach a peaceful solution, the Libyans—as individuals—will be compelled to avenge their relatives, their forefathers. If the Italians killed my grandfather and I did nothing about avenging him, my son can take revenge for his grandfather. [as heard] Consequently, when he acts against the Italians he will be acting as an individual. It is better that we do not reach the stage of individual Libyan action against the Italians as individuals, as groups, and as a state.

We should reach a solution through the state—the state of the Libyan masses. This is to be preferred. But if Italy does not help to solve this problem through this preferred and more suitable, peaceful, legal, sensible, and civilized method—the method of a state talking to a state—the Libyan people will then have the right to take revenge as individuals and groups—generation after generation against those who kidnapped their aunts, grandmothers, forefathers, uncles, and brothers. They were taken away from these areas. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to areas on the map] You look at these areas which are in red—they are the Libyan areas. The areas in black are the Italian areas to which they were moved. [passage omitted]

In Italian records we found that 3,346 Libyans were taken away in 1911. That was the 1st year of Italian occupation. We have Italian records in our possession today which speak about this tragedy. [passage omitted]

These women died as a result of torture, malnutrition, illness, and as a result of Italian barbarism. Italy is not a group of people, or at least it was not at that time. It was a group of pigs and devils and consequently we cannot expect from it any compassion. If devils can subjugate others, they do so and torture others.

See, here is a list of children. I want to fill the Libyans with hatred. I want to fill the hearts of our children and their children with sacred resentment so that this agression will not be repeated. These campaigns, this game across the Mediterranean Sea must cease. They must cease seeking to launch a striking force in North Africa and the Middle East which will scare these scoundrels. Their aircraft, their ships will be destroyed and their trade will be threatened. Their communications will be threatened so that they will respect us and withdraw to within their territories.

This is a list of children. Let us have more hatred. Today is not only a day of speeches, of wearing black, and of sorrow. No, today we fill our hearts with black spite against the enemies so that these black pages are not repeated because they were repeated on this map; they were repeated [word indistinct]; they were repeated on this second map, this third map, fourth map, and fifth map. This means that the sixth, seventh, and eighth maps will come. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people were buried alive in Italy. These are lists containing the names of Libyan children and women who died in exile. None of the dogs who ruled Libya ever told us about this; no deputy told us this; none of the ministers told us this; none of the ambassadors told us. None of those who ruled from 1952 to 1969 told us that. Has anyone ever told us that your relatives and children were transported like rats and died in Italy in this way? Who did tell you? Eat, drink, and make merry in Italy! Tell us that you do not want Italian-made clothes, and Italian drinks! [passage omitted]

This is civilized Italy! The successor which inherited the glory of Rome. This is the civilization of Rome. Let the world hear and we the Libyan people and see the Italian people—the civilized state which occupied the world in the name of the Roman colonialism. The Italians said that they were coming to Libya to civilize the Libyan people—this is what they said in their declaraiton—we are coming to civilize the Libyan people.

They said that the Libyan people were backward and they wanted to civilize it. How? They taught the Libyans how children are transported and killed, and how women are transported and killed! They taught the Libyans how they can be turned into dogs, wolves, pigs, and devils—this is Italy's civilization which Italy wanted to bring into Libya. Shame on Italy and on those who sought peace with it after independence until the revolution was staged; shame on those who kept quite about Italy! [passage omitted]

Seventy years ago Italy was barbaric; it contained a group of devils and backward people and pigs. Seventy years later they became developed according to Darwin's theory, and they became civilized. [passage omitted] But I do not believe that Italy today, after 70 years, differs from the other Italy. That means that if today Italy can extend its control over us it will treat us in the same way. It will look at us with the same view and deal with us with the same logic—dirty Arabs who should be annihilated! [passage omitted].

On contrast, there are good relations with Italy, and 57 Italian companies operate in Libya. And there are benefits which Italy enjoys as a result of its companies operation in Libya. The value of these contracts is 700 billion [currency not specified]. And there are 3,000 Italians currently living in Libya who are being treated kindly. Italy, for your information, is Libya's biggest trading partner. And there is no doubt that Libyan exports exceed imports from Italy, mostly oil and gas. There are dozens of Italian companies operating in Libya, and thousands if Italians working in Libya.

At the same time I want to confirm that the political attitude of Italy today—for the information of the Libyans—is good within the EEC, because of its big interests in Libya, and not because Italy has changed after 70 years. I do not think so. I do not think that their morals have changed, that their view of the Libyan Arabs has changed. In the recent past, 70 years ago, they used to bury them alive and say that they did not deserve to live, that they came to civilize us. In those 70 years I do not think that Libyans have become civilized in the eyes of the Italians.

Thus, if Italy finds an opportunity once again, it will come to teach the Libyans civilization Italian style as is reflected in these records. But in any case, Italy has strong commercial interests in Libya in the form of

Italian companies operating in Libya. Consequently, Libya represents an important market for Italy. Thus Italy's attitude now is indeed a good one within the anti-Libyan EEC.

We are facing two attitudes: a page full of horrific facts and the satanic treatment of Libya by Italy. Turkey helped hand Libya over to Italy, to enable Italy to commit such atrocities, in the 1912 Lausanne Treaty, when Turkey handed Libya over to Italy without any justification. It left us to face the barbaric march of the Italians unarmed. Turkey is also responsible for handing Libya to Italy in order to subject the Libyan people to this annihilation. In addition to this annihilation, during World War II, Libyan land was destroyed by the mine fields and allied and axis military operations, as a result of Italy's colonization of Libya.

This is another harm which was inflicted on Libyan soil and people. This photograph shows us the victims of the mines. Individuals whose limbs were torn away. [Al-Qadhdhafi addresses an aide] No, not this one; show them the other photograph. Yes this one—the photograph showing the victims of the mines? Display it on the screen. This is an example. Look at this child whose limbs were torn away by the mines—Italian, German, and British mines. We demand compensation from these three states. [passage omitted]

These are Italian, German, and British mines—they all planted mines in our land during World War II. We had nothing whatsoever to do with World War II, nor with World War I, nor with World War III which they will wage on our soil too unless we are strong and prevent it. This is the result of the two world wars, but as for that photograph it is the result of the occupation itself. [passage omitted]

They are doing the same thing now in southern Lebanon and in Palestine and Nicaragua, and Angola, and if they return to Libya they will do the same to you. Look at the massacres! Civilized Europe! [passage omitted]

Finally we come to the Italian-Libyan treaty which Italy now boasts about and which it takes as an excuse. There is an agreement between Italy and the government of the United Kingdom of Libya; it was signed in 1956. When we talk to the Italians about compensation they say that we signed an agreement in 1956 and settled everything and paid you compensation. When I read this article, No. 16, I find that the article says: Proceeding from the spirit of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, the Italian state shall pay the sum of 2,750,000 Libyan pounds to the Libyan state as a contribution toward the reconstruction of the Libyan economy. That is all! The sum shall be paid partly in cash and partly conditional—in the form of goods to be purchased from Italy.

This is the article which Italy uses as an excuse to say that they have compensated the Libyan people. I want the Libyan people, and the members of the people's committees, the people's conferences, and the members of the revolutionary committees and the civilians and the military and those under arms and those who are not under arms to understand their right well and know how to wrest it at a suitable time. They should understand the consequence of noncompliance with our will and our right. The aim is to make everyone convinced of that. This Article No 16 is not a compensation for the colonization and destruction of our land during World War II. It says: As a contribution to the reconstruction of the Libyan economy. A state may give another charity or a loan as an economic contribution—a very kind gesture; it is free to do so. [passage omitted]

We are now full of sacred hatred toward Italy because Italy subjected us to annihilation. Had it not been for that annihilation our population today could have been 10 million. Not long ago Italy and its neighbor, Germany, compensated the Israelis for the crimes which Hitler committed. Chancellor Adenauer gave 40 billion [currency not specified] to the Israelis. East Germany now in 1988 has declared its agreement to compensate the Israelis because it was part of the Germany under Hitler. That means that today's Germany shoulders the responsibility of Nazi Germany. Therefore today's Italy—according to this precedent—should inevitably shoulder responsibility of past Italy. [passage omitted]

Article 1 of the agreement between the United Kingdom of Libya and the Republic of Italy in 1956 stated that the two governments would begin negotiations as soon as possible to conclude a trade and navigation treaty and a cultural agreement within the framework of a more comprehensive treaty between the two countries. But this treaty between the two countries has never been signed until now. I now offer a solution. I have reviewed the black crimes, hideous acts, and the annihilation against the Libyan people without reason. I have pointed out the good increasing relations between the two countries and that Italy is the first among foreign countries when it comes to trade relations and cooperation with Libya. I have said that Italy's policy is one that we do not regard as hostile, in fact, it is friendly.

But Italy now is the base of the U.S. 6th Fleet which carried out the aggression against us and killed our sons, so Italy still constitutes a danger to us. It does so as long as it protects the U.S. bases and allows it to carry out aggressions from Italian ports and territorial waters. The U.S. 6th Fleet sailed on the day it carried out the attacks on Banghazi and killed the children at Baninah from the Strait of Messina, from Italian bases, from inside Italian territorial waters. It was as if Italy itself had carried out the aggression.

We thus hit the island of Lampedusa to destroy the U.S. 6th Fleet telecommunication station. Italy had given this island to the United States for a telecommunication

station. That station used to guide the aircraft to our homes. We destroyed it. We directed a strike against Italian soil because the aggression that night came from Italian soil, and Italy felt no remorse. It has not changed at all in the last 70 years. [passage omitted]

In 1986 Italy allowed the U.S. mad aircraft to hit houses and streets in Libya and kill Libyan children. Italy is thus the same Italy we know, it still constitutes a source of aggression against us, despite the good relations between us and despite the fact that Italy warned us, saying: Tonight there will be an attack, particularly against Al-Qadhdhafi. It informed me of this via the Maltese prime minister on that night. It told me that Al-Qadhdhafi was wanted dead on that night. This made me not to leave Bab al-'Aziziyah that night when I received the warning to the effect that Al-Qadhdhafi's head was wanted that night, and that we should protect him at any price.

This was said by the Italians and the Maltese because both of them believe that we represent an ascending force filling a vaccum and a party which is useful to deal with. Their view of us differs from the U.S. view. The United States believes that this enemy should be eliminated because he is a threat to imperialism and U.S. influence, expansion, and aspirations, because he is an instigator, and so forth. They said: Tonight Al-Qadhdhafi is wanted. This is what made me not leave Bab al-'Aziziyah that night, and waited in my tent as long as possible. It was because I should not leave Bab al-'Aziziyah; it was not worthy of me to leave Bab al-'Aziziyah when I heard that I was the target that night. As I said, Italy warned us of the aggression, but that night the U.S. 6th Fleet sailed from Italy. So Italy felt no remorse about the aggression. It still constitutes a source of danger to us.

The U.S. 6th Fleet is still in Italy, so Italy is a base for aggression. We should deal with it and prepare ourselves for that. We tell them: Today we are not the Libyans of yesterday. Now we have capabilities, we have learned and have experience. What is more important is that we are now full of hatred toward Italy. In 1911 we did not hate Italy. Our forefathers and relatives did not know Italy. They did not believe that there was a state across the Mediterranean that could kill them and their children. But now we know Italy and where Italy is on the map. We know how colonialism came to Libya. We have capabilities.

Ultimately the confrontation will not be the same as that which took place in the past. We should make preparations so long as Italy remains a base for aggression. We should make preparations for friendship if Italy feels any remorse and protects its interests with the Arab countries, with North Africa, and with the Mediterranean countries and strives to make the latter a lake for peace for the development of international peaceful relations. If Italy wants to feel no remorse, not heed the lesson and prefers to remain a base for aggression, then it should understand that the confrontation henceforth will be different from that in the past.

After having said all that, I have a proposal to facilitate matters for Italy and to avoid the very dire consequences. Proceeding from the 1986 [as heard] agreement and from Article 1 which stated that all these matters should be within a more comprehensive framework of a treaty between the two countries, we should complete the conclusion of this treaty on condition that it be based on compensation for all those hideous acts and crimes and that it restore the Libyan land destroyed as a result of Italy's presence in Libya during World War II and the involvement of other parties in a war on Libyan territory.

We have 100,000 families who suffered from the mines. We have 5,000 Libyans who were deported to Italy during the Italian occupation of Libya, and we want their sons and grandsons and their remains so that we will not be compelled one day to go to Italy by force and search for them by our own ways and means—by our own ways and means as mad individuals!

The treaty should stipulate that there should be no aggression by either party against the other. That is to say, we undertake that Libya will not carry out aggression against Italy, and Italy undertakes not to carry out aggression against Libya. This includes the nonestablishment of bases in one country that can be used against the other. If the U.S. bases in Italy are used against Libya they should not be established there. If Italy accepts the presence of the U.S. bases which are hostile to Libya, then Italy must bear responsibility for that. We will then defend ourselves, and this time we are capable of inflicting harm on the other side, most definitely we can.

The treaty should stipulate that there will be friendship and cooperation between us. Unless this is achieved by peaceful means—we pin our hopes on the democratic and popular forces in Italy and on the Italian people themselves who were helpless several times and who were compelled to colonize others, and we pin our hopes on our friends in the Italian Government who want peace in the Mediterranean and who one day may get rid of the American madness in the new era in the United States when the term of office of the rabid dog comes to an end; we believe that the climate will then be suitable for an international understanding and for the signing of a treaty of this kind between the two countries—unless this takes place, we warn that the Libyan people may avenge their children, particulary now when they have lists containing these names and addresses.

The listed children, women, and men have relatives and have grandchildren. Each grandchild will receive a copy of the list containing the address of his grandfather, grandmother, aunt, uncle, and so forth and will look for a method for avenging them. Sacred revenge!

Our struggle continues against those enemies until we are respected on this earth which God has created for us all. The sun shines on all!

Al-Qadhdhafi Observes Silence for 'Martyrs'

LD2610151488 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has stood outside the People's Palace in Tripoli for 2 minutes this afternoon today housing the souls of martyrs of thousands of Libyan Arab exiled by the Italian colonialization of (?Libya). This comes in the 77th anniversary of the banishment of these Libyans.

Present at this occasion were a large number of Italian pressmen and Arab and (?foreign) correspondents in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Leads Prayers for 'Martyrs'

LD2610211988 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution led the "prayers for the absentee" held during the remembrance ceremony in the martyrs' neighbourhood in al-Manshiyah Tripoli on the souls of the martyrs who were exiled and deported, on the day of mourning to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the deportation of thousands of Libyan Arabs during the Italian colonial invasion of the Libyan Arab territories.

The leader and the performers of prayers (?said) the opening sura from the holy Koran bringing mercy upon the souls of the martyrs.

'Secret' Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Sudan Reported

NC2710100988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-SUDANI says in a front-page report today that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Sudan for a secret visit last unday.

The report adds that private sources have informed the paper that Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, two ministers with important portfolios, and a former minister who had resigned his post led those who received Al-Qadhdhafi. The resources note that Al-Qadhdhafi's plane landed at an airfield in Wadi Sayyidna military base north of Omdurman.

AL-SUDANI reports that the secret talks between the two sides included, among other issues, the question of a Sudanese-Libyan union.

Morocco

Libya's Al-Humaydi Arrives for Talks

LD2610004188 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Summary from poor reception] A Libyan delegation led by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived today in Rabat to take part in the meetings of the supreme Maghreban committee in charge of drawing up practical visualization for the unification of the Arab Maghreb. The meeting is due to open Thursday.

Meets With Filali, Others

LD2710034388 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Within the framework of the unionist working visit which Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi is paying to sisterly Morocco, he had a number of meetings Wednesday [26 October]. Our correspondent gives more details in the following dispatch:

[Correspondent] Brother Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi received at his residence in Rabat Wednesday evening brothers Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan foreign minister, and Dr Driss Basri, Moroccan minister of the interior and information.

During the meeting, they reviewed a number of issues and topics relating to the second meeting of the Maghreban higher committee, which is due to meet in Rabat Thursday to draw up executive and practical steps and the points agreed on during the proceedings of the Maghreban sub-committees.

These steps will comprise unionist files that will be submitted to the Maghreb leaders at the forthcoming summit meeting and embody the aspirations and hopes of the Arab citizens in the eastern and western parts of the Arab homeland.

The meeting was attended by the brother permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the Arab League and the resident secretary of the Great Jamahiriyah in sisterly Morocco.

Maj al-Khuwaylidi also received at his residence in Rabat brother Hedi Baccouche, prime minister in sisterly Tunisia, and brother Abdelhamid Escheikh, Tunisian foreign minister. They reviewed a number of issues and topics relating to the second meeting of the Maghreban higher committee.

Finally, brother Maj al-Khuwaylidi met with brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee.

Egypt's Defense Minister Arrives, Meets Press

LD2610223488 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Field Marshall 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, arrived at al-Manarah, Marrakech airport on an official visit to Morocco.

The Egyptian statesman talked about the visit in a statement to newsmen at the Marrakech airport, Al-Manarah. He said:

[Begin recording] [Abu Ghazalah] Naturally, I am very happy that his majesty the king graciously invited me to visit fraternal Morocco. Therefore, this visit has meaning and significance to my heart. The good relations between the Egyptian and Moroccan people are well known; they have their historical and modern roots. Thank God, this visit will also complement the visit of his excellency the president in February. I extend many thanks to his majesty the king for this invitation. God willing, this visit will have good results in the strengthening of relations between the Moroccan and Egyptian Armed Forces.

As I said to his excellency the minister [not further identified], I am an Egyptian soldier and a Moroccan soldier at the same time. I extend grateful thanks and repeat my thanks to his majesty the king for this invitation.

[First reporter] Field Marshal, the recent meeting, the Aqaba meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn (?and) Yasir 'Arafat, was a turning point in the new political development with regard to the Arab issue.

[Abu Ghazalah] Naturally, our president—as you are aware—always tries to being closer the point of view and removes any contradictions which exist in some views and thoughts. I believe that meeting will have good results in pushing forward the peace wagon and the solving the issue; as you know, the confederation issue has almost been agreed upon. I think that the commentaries and statements of [words indistinct] of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, His Majesty King Husayn, and the president (?are sufficient and do not require) me to add to them.

[Second reporter] Your visit to the Moroccan Kingdom contributes to the strengthening of relations, the relations of cooperation. How do you see the military cooperation between the two countries?

[Abu Ghazalah] In fact, it is very important to me that the military cooperation between the Moroccan and Egyptian Armed Forces be in the best possible form. The fields are numerous; there are training fields; education fields; joint maneuvers fields; armament fields. I hope his majesty the king, the Moroccan people, and the Moroccan Army have a good opinion of me. I hope I can provide something that will help bolster and strengthen relations and strengthen our Armed Forces and defense capability. [end recording]

The above statement was made by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah upon his arrival this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Mohamed Benaissa the minister of culture; Dr Mohamed Ben Mahi, the governor of Marrakech region; Dr Munir Zahran, the Egyptian ambassador to Morocco; a number of senior Royal Armed Forces officers; and a number of leading personalities.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC To Hold Emergency Meeting in Riyadh 1 Nov

NC2610150188 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 26 (AFP)—Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will hold an emergency meeting next Tuesday to discuss Iran-Iraq peace talks and the political crisis in Lebanon, well-informed sources said here Wednesday.

The meeting will take place at GCC headquarters in Riyadh and will group the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The discussions will open one day after the scheduled resumption of U.N.-brokered negotiations between Iran and Iraq in Geneva. The GCC meeting will also be held following a formal request by the UAE for an emergency summit on Lebanon to end the political crisis there.

Lebanon has been governed by two rival cabinets—one Christian-led, the other pro-Syrian and Moslem-dominated—since September 23, following parliament's failure to find a sucessor to President Amin al-Jumayyil after the expiration of his six-year non-renewable mandate. Well-informed sources here said Saudi Arabia had also been deploying efforts to put an end to the "critical situation" prevailing in Lebanon.

The GCC ministers are in addition expected to discuss the nearly 11-month Palestinian uprising on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

GCC Finance Ministers Conclude 19th Session

LD2610231288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1913 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 26 (KUNA)—GCC ministers of finance and economy wound up tonight the 19th session of the financial and economic cooperation committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

The meeting chairman, Saudi Finance and Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl told reporters the committee approved the unified system on protection of Arab Gulf industrial products.

The unified system of investing foreign capitals was approved as a guide system, said Aba al-Khayl who noted the protection and investment systems will be referred to the GCC Supreme Council for approval in December in Bahrain.

Each GCC member state, he said, will take the necessary measures to encourage the private sector to use local currencies in dealing with other GCC private sectors.

Bahrain

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives 26 Oct

JN2610162688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Manama, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Manama this evening from Muscat as part of a tour of the region's countries.

The Syrian foreign minister is carrying a message to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with current Arab issues and the situation in Lebanon.

Upon arrival, the Syrian foreign minister was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Makes Pre-Departure Statement

JN2610215788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Manama, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Manama today for Doha after a short visit to Bahrain during which he delivered a message to His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

In a pre-departure statement, Al-Shar' praised the Bahraini Government and people's stands. He said they were faithful and loyal Arab stands concerned with handling Arab issues in a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood to benefit the entire Arab nation.

Commenting on his meeting with his highness the amir of Bahrain, he said that there was agreement over the importance of helping Lebanon overcome its crisis, reject partition, affirm it's Arab identity, and achieve national accord among all the Lebanese because it forms the sound basis to safeguard the stability and unity of Lebanon.

On Syria's stand on the initiative of UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to hold an emergency Arab summit to study the situation in Lebanon, Al-Shar' expressed the Government of Syria's satisfaction with the loyal efforts made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid for the sake of Lebanon.

He said that during his meeting with UAE president in Abu Dhabi yesterday, he agreed to handle the current crisis, reject the attempts to partition Lebanon, and affirm the Arab identity, unity, and independence of Lebanon.

The Syrian foreign minister's visit is part of a tour of a number of countries in the region in order to mobilize efforts to support Lebanon in overcoming its present crisis.

Minister Meets UK Commander, Norwegian Envoy

JN2410144388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Manama, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, met here today with Sir William Stavely, first lord of the Royal British Admiralty, and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Manama.

The Bahraini minister also met with Norwegian Ambassador to Bahrain Hans Wilhelm Longva. During the two meetings, Bahrain's relations with Britain and Norway were discussed.

Kuwait

Government Will Attend 'Any' Talks on Lebanon

JN2610184088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Oct 88 p 1

[By Husayn Salamah]

[Excerpt] Kuwait announced yesterday that it will participate in the Arab foreign ministers meeting called by Sudan to discuss the Lebanese crisis if it convenes. Answering a question by AL-SIYASAH, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, said Kuwait has received an official invitation from Sudan to attend an Arab foreign ministers meeting on the crisis fraternal Lebanon is experiencing.

Al-'Usaymi said that Kuwait has not received an official invitation to attend an Arab summit. He added: We will attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting if it convenes because our principled constant stand supports any Arab meeting.

Al-'Usaymi added: Although we have not received an official invitation for an Arab summit, we are ready to participate in any meeting at any level if this serves supreme Arab interests, achieves Arab solidarity, and eliminates differences among the brothers. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier on Talks With Spanish Minister

LD2610143388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1324 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Oct 26 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday said that Spanish-Kuwaiti talks focused on bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Shaykh Sabah was talking to reporters following a meeting today with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez. He added that this is the first visit for Spanish foreign minister to Kuwait and "we are pleased," adding that he is carrying a message for h.h. the amir from King Juan Carlos of Spain.

The talks also tackled political issues such as the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, and hope was expressed that the negotiations will realise security, peace and ability [as received] in the region, the Kuwaiti chief diplomat said.

He pointed out that GCC and EEC initialed agreement earlier this year on economic and technical cooperation. He added signing and ratification of that accord is still under discussion. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs Minister To Visit PRC, Maldives

LD2410091088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1505 GMT 23 Oct 88

[By Yahya Mattar]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 23 (KUNA)—Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmad al-Jasir Sunday praised the Kuwaiti-Chinese relations at all levels.

In an interview with KUNA, prior to departure on an official tour which includes Peoples Republic of China and Maldives, Al-Jasir added that contacts are continuing with officials there to boost cultural, trade and economic ties.

During his official few days visit to China, Al-Jasir indicated he will review ways of upgrading bilateral cooperation between the two countries and will also visit Chinese Muslim minorities there. He added Kuwaiti Awqaf Ministry has sent several Islamic books for Muslim minorities in China in addition to books of holy Koran, noting that a number of Chinese delegations had visited Kuwait during the last few years for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Following his visit to China, Al-Jasir will pay a visit to Maldives upon invitation by his Maldive counterpart, he said.

Minister al-Jasir hailed Kuwaiti-Maldives ties.

The ministry is strengthening Islamic activities in the Republic of Maldives, the minister said. He stated that the ministry always seeks to enhance work inside and outside Kuwait to spread the Islamic call.

PDRY

GDR Peasants Union Signs Cooperation Agreement

EA2610210488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the Democratic Yemeni Peasants Union and the Union of Peasants in the German Democratic Republic was signed this evening at the Al-Sahil al-Dhahabi Hotel. It was signed for the Yemeni side by brother Awad Nasir Ghalib, foreign relations secretary of the Central Council of the

Democratic Yemeni Peasants Union, and for the German side by his counterpart in the GDR Union of Peasants, Comrade (Hans Erich Oban).

The agreement provides for strengthening cooperation between the two unions, offering scholarships to the Democratic Yemeni Peasants Union for training union cadres in the GDR, and holding regular meetings between the leaderships of the two unions. The agreement also provides for exchanging experiences, working out measures regarding joint work, exchanging information on social and agricultural development and exchanging important documents and publications.

Speeches were made after the agreement was signed. In the speeches, it was affirmed that the signing of the agreement indicates the strength of the ties between the two countries parties and their joint aims. The depth of the relationship between the two unions—and the importance of developing it—was also affirmed.

The signing ceremony was attended by brother Ahmad Ubayd Bin Daghar, member of the Central Committee and the secretary of the Democratic Yemeni Peasants Union, a number of officials of the Union's Central Council, and the GDR ambassador to Aden.

Justice Minister Returns With Message From Sanaa
EA2610184188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, minister of justice and religious endownments, returned to Aden this morning from Sanaa.

On his return, brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim told ANA that he is carrying a reply to the brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, general secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, from their brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland.

The reply was in response to a message which the two had sent to him earlier in connection with the progress of joint unification work between the two parts of the homeland. He said that he had met the brother ministers of justice, religious endowments, and legal affairs in the northern part of the homeland. He held talks with them on developing relations between the two parts judicial and legal systems in the future.

Interior Minister Returns from Saudi Arabia
EA2610184488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of the interior, returned this afternoon with his delegation from the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after concluding an official visit of several days. He was met on arrival by brothers Sa'id Salih Salim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state security; Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals, and a number of brother members of the Central Committee, the Presidium, and senior officials of the Ministries of Defense and Interior.

On arrival, brother al-Siyayli told journalists that as far as the outcome of the visit to Saudi Arabia is concerned, we first delivered an oral message from brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, to King Fahd. We then took part in brotherly dialogues with our Saudi brothers led by King Fahd, the Crown Prince His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and His Highness Prince Nayif 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister.

The results were fruitful and positive and should serve the development of relations between our two peoples and governments. A great deal of our time was taken up by matters of our own brother expatriates in Saudi Arabia with the object of improving their conditions and providing a better life for them in the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia

Group Claims Responsibility for Killing Diplomat
NC2610201988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A group calling itself the Islamic Jihad in Hijaz [Al-Jihad al-Islami fi Al-Hijaz] has claimed responsibility for assassinating a secretary at the Saudi Embassy in Turkey yesterday. In a statement distributed in Beirut today, the group said the operation is in retaliation for the execution of four of the group's members in Saudi Arabia.

Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives With Messages
LD2410215788 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2025 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] This evening Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez arrived in Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital, from Luxembourg. The aim of this tour of the Arabian Peninsula, which will also take him to Kuwait, is to boost bilateral relations, increase trade relations, and obtain firsthand information on the position of Arab countries on international questions, in light of Spain's imminent assumption of the EEC Presidency. The minister is bearing personal messages from King Juan Carlos to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the amir of Kuwait.

Communique Details Visit
LD2610213688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Oct (SPA)—The Spanish foreign minister has indicated that his talks with officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia covered the consolidation of

bilateral links between the two countries, the international situation, and also the situation in the Arab Gulf, the Palestinian issue, and the Lebanese problem.

Mr Francisco Fernandez said in a press communique released here today at the end of his visit to the Kingdom, that he was received by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to whom he handed a message from Juan Carlos, the Spanish monarch.

He added that his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, also covered bilateral issues of mutual interest. He said that the Saudi and Spanish sides had attached a special importance to the current dialogue between the European Community and the GCC, a dialogue which encompasses the development of economic relations between them.

Mr Fernandez went on to say that the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and that the Spanish delegation had expressed its gratitude for the attention it received during the visit.

The commnique also said that the Spanish foreign minister had extended an invitation to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, to visit Spain and that this invitation was accepted.

United Arab Emirates

Arab League Secretary General Meets President

JN2610174588 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 26 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today asked Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to contact Arab states on the UAE's call for an emergency summit on Lebanon.

Shaykh Zayid also discussed with Klibi, who arrived earlier today, the Arab situation light of the latest developments and the need to boost the Arab position in the next stage.

Klibi expressed the League's appreciation for Shaykh Zayid's stand towards Lebanon and his call for urgent Arab action to save Lebanon from its current plight.

The meeting was attended by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah.

Sees Rashid 'Abdallah, Leaves

JN2710103688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. They reviewed Arab developments, particularly the situation in Lebanon, in light of the fact that His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, entrusted Chedli Klibi to make an Arab tour and hold contacts with Arab leaders on the call for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

After the meeting, Klibi left Abu Dhabi for Doha as part of a regional tour.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Minister Arives With 'Unionist' Letter

JN2410140988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, at noon today received brother 'Abd al-Wasi' Salim, justice minister in the southern part of the homeland.

He gave the president a letter from brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the [YSP] Central Committee; and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the southern part of the homeland concerning unionist moves between the two parts.

The meeting was attended by brothers Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, state minister for affairs of Yemeni unity; and Justice Minister Muhsin al-'Ulufi. The minister arrived in the country earlier today.

Departs Following Visit

JN2610142088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Wasi' Salim, justice and religious trusts minister in the southern part of the homeland, left Sanaa today following a visit during which he delivered a message to brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the [YSP] Central Committee; and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the [PDRY] Supreme People's Council Presidium. He also met with the brothers ministers of awqaf and guidance, justice, and legal affairs.

In a statement to SABA', brother 'Abd al-Wasi' Salim explained that he carries a reply message from brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. The message deals with issues of interest to both parts and means to bolster them and strengthen unity action. He pointed out that he discussed with officials means of improving relations among legal organs in both parts for the interest of the one Yemeni people.

He was seen off by brother Muhsin al-'Ulufi, minister of justice; brother Muhammad al-'Arashi, director of the Unity Affairs Office; and a number of officials.

Foreign Ministry Approves Calls for Arab Summit

JN2610175488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Iraq announced its stand today on the calls to hold a meeting of the Arab League Council and to hold an Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

The Foreign Ministry relayed this stand to Iraq's permanent Arab League mission in Tunis so that the latter can relay it to the Arab League General Secretariat.

INA has learned that Iraq approves the two calls and desires, in principle, to see the Arabs opt for holding an Arab summit.

However, Iraq will attend the ministerial meeting if most of the Arab states prefer the option of holding this meeting.

Iraq has affirmed its enthusiastic support for seeing the Arab League shoulder the responsibility to discuss the situation in Lebanon and adopt the decisions and measures. It has become necessary to adopt these decisions and measures to help Lebanon out of its dangerous situation which threatens to destroy its entity.

It is essential that the Arab League help bring about a status that guarantees the unity, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon and that also enables it to resolve its internal problems and embark on its natural role in the Arab community of which it is a member.

Iraq also affirmed that foremost among the measures which the Arab League must undertake is securing a free and secure election of the Lebanese president by the Chamber of Deputies—an election that must be carried out according to the Lebanese Constitution.

PRC Construction Minister Meets Counterpart

JN2610185488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Housing and Reconstruction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun today received PRC Construction Minister Lin Hanxiong.

During the meeting, attended by the PRC ambassador in Baghdad, they discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of housing and construction.

Visits Trade Minister

JN2610214988 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 26, INA—Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraq's trade minister met here today with Mr. Lin Hanxiong the Chinese minister of construction and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, means of developing relations of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, were discussed.

The Chinese minister arrived in Baghdad last night to attend the international fair silver jubilee ceremony next Tuesday.

Shomron on IDF 'Hit Squads,' Effect of PNC

TA2610185888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The forthcoming PNC convention is causing an increase in terrorist activity in the north and in the issuance of calls for an escalation of the situation in the territories, says the chief of staff. Lieutenant General Shomron commented on the Duvdevan and Shimshon affair [Cherry and Samson, respectively; hit squads allegedly responsible for the elimination of leaders of the uprising in the territories]. This is sheer nonsense, said Shomron, the IDF has no hit squads. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi has the details:

The recent terrorist attempts in the north are a product of forthcoming events such as the expected PNC convention and the elections in Israel. These remarks were made today by Chief of Staff Gen Dan Shomron. These events encourage various groups to act against Israel. This is mostly true for the various PLO factions and other Palestinian organizations related to Syria, said Shomron. This activity aims to indirectly influence the expected resolutions of the PNC. The chief of staff further said: I assume that the PLO aspires to create a new Fatahland between Tyre and Sidon.

Gen Shomron referred to the state of affairs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. There are calls aimed at the residents of the territories to stage riots and demonstrations on the eve of the PNC. These are going to be difficult days for the population. Those who make the calls for riots sit in luxurious hotels, while those who demonstrate pay the full price, said Shomron. Concerning the Duvdevan and Shimshon affair Shomron said: These are fantasies. No IDF unit operates above the law. There is no IDF body with a permit to eliminate people. We use other methods against those who call people into the streets, threaten the populations, and prevent commercial activities.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic on 26 October at 1730 GMT airs an interview with Gen Dan Shomron in which he says: "It would be a mistake to believe that the IDF cannot deploy large forces in the territories. The IDF is basically training and getting ready to face any threat of war with regular armies. We are deploying a small force, but not because we cannot use a larger force and for a longer period of time. We see the residents of the territories—in any case and in whatever political solution that will be found—as our neighbors. They will be here forever, and so will we. That is why we restrict ourselves in the methods we use. We do not want to insult them or cause unnecessary suffering. I want to remind the residents of past deeds of other armies in similar situations. I do not refer only to Arab armies such as Syria—what it did and how—or to the recent events in Algeria. I also speak of activities carried out by Western armies as well. The IDF will never do the same."]

Rabin: No Change Necessary in IDF Instructions

TA2610202488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that there is no intention of changing the IDF's instructions on opening fire in view of the children wounded in the Gaza Strip. During a tour of the Gaza Strip, the defense minister said he is convinced the commander of the Southern Command and the IDF officers in the region are the last ones to want such incidents to occur. At the same time, he said, it would be advisable for little girls not to run around in areas where violence is raging. Minister Rabin was accompanied by Major General Ehud Baraq, the deputy chief of staff; and Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

The defense minister said that the security forces are bracing for any development that might occur due to the tension and anticipation prior to the Israeli and U.S. elections and the PNC meeting.

Committee To Investigate Palestinian Operations

LD2610134288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1242 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Beirut, Oct 26 (KUNA)—Israeli authorities have set up a military committee to investigate circumstances that led to success of the recent Palestinian commando operations, a secret diplomatic report said Wednesday [26 October]. One of the Palestinian fighters' operations was a suicide-car bomb in South Lebanon which left eight Israeli soldiers killed and eight others seriously wounded.

A top-secret diplomatic report made available to KUWAIT NEWS ACENCY, KUNA, here said the investigation will try to answer questions on how the driver of the explosive car reached the scene of the operation in the so-called "security belt" in South Lebanon. The zone is supposed to be sealed off for civilians and fairly guarded by pro-Israeli Lebanese militiamen.

According to the report, the Israeli Investigation committee, which was formed by Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, will comprise three high-ranking Israeli officers, a border military intellegence representative, a Mossad representative and the commander of the Israeli convoy that had been attacked by the suicide car bomb last week.

"(Opinion) of no-confidence" has been dominating the relations between the Israeli security apparatus and the Army General Commando operations in south Lebanon, the report said. Other commando groups belonging to Palestinian Fatah movement, Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine, and Palestine Democratic Front were capable of successfully launching similar attacks in the Israeli security enclave in South Lebanon in past days.

IDF Supplies TA-55 Tanks to SLA

TA2610195488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky]

[Excerpt] The IDF has recently supplied the South Lebanese Army [SLA] with new tanks, T-55's. The instructors are IDF officers, but the crews all consist of SLA personnel who train in Lebanese territory. These tanks are usually deployed in permanent positions. Today some of them participated in the SLA's operation in the Jazzin area. [passage omitted]

S. Lebanese Call for Lifting Some Restrictions

TA2610115188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Representatives of dozens of villages in the security zone have called on the Israeli army and on the South Lebanese Army to cancel some of the restrictions imposed on residents after last week's car bomb attack, which took the lives of eight Israeli soldiers. The local representatives said it was impossible to abide, for example, by the restriction that residents may not travel in their cars alone.

Dinitz to Moscow at Shevardnadze's Invitation

TA2710110788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 88 p 12

[Report by Charles Hoffman]

[Text] Jewish Agency leaders Simcha Dinitz and Mendel Kaplan are going to Moscow next week at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as part of a delegation headed by World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman. It will include Morris Abram, president of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. During their visit the delegation will dedicate a Jewish cultural centre attached to the main Moscow synagogue.

Rabbi Returns From Moscow Visit With Agreements

TA2610111888 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p A12

[Text] Rabbi 'Adin Steinsaltz returned yesterday from an official visit to Moscow with two agreements signed with the Soviets. A Jewish study center, staffed by 14 Bible scholars from the West, is scheduled to open in Moscow in February 1989. The scholars will take on the task of training a new generation of rabbis and Bible scholars from among Soviet Jewry. Under the second agreement, Rabbi Steinsaltz will set up an organization which, with Soviet cooperation, will catalog, research, computerize, and copy the enormous quantity of ancient documents, rare books, and other material to enable experts from all over the world to study them.

Gerasimov: No Need To Change Stand on Conference

TA2710100388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Daniyel Dagan]

[Text] Moscow—"From our point of view, the fate of the international conference on the Israeli-Arab conflict depends a lot on the Israeli elections. We see no need to change the Soviet position in order to hold the conference," Gennadiy Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, told HA'ARETZ. In an exclusive interview to HA'ARETZ, the Foreign Ministry spokesman added: "Progress has been made in the past year. There have been minor changes, and the conference is somewhat closer now—although it is still very far off. A great deal now depends on the outcome of the Israeli elections. We are conversing several days too early. Let us wait for 1 November."

HA'ARETZ: Last week the USSR again voted in favor of disqualifying Israel from the UN General Assembly. Is this not a regression in Moscow's position?

Gerasimov: No, this does not signify any change. We have traditionally supported the Arab position on ousting Israel, and we continue to pursue that policy. The vote, in fact, proves that there has not yet been any change.

HA'ARETZ: The visas of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow have been extended once. Will the delegation receive an additional extension so that it may continue its stay in Moscow?

Gerasimov: I suppose so. If the members of the delegation do not complete their work and will want to stay on here for a longer period, they will surely receive visas.

HA'ARETZ: Do the members of the Israeli delegation meet with Foreign Ministry political officials?

Gerasimov: The Israelis came here to deal with consular-technical issues. They do not meet with political officials.

PRC Journalists Arrive on 'Private' Tour

TA2710094488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Two journalists from the PRC arrived unexpectedly yesterday via the Allenby Bridge. This is the first time that Chinese journalists have visited Israel. Jerusalem views it as another sign that the two countries are moving closer together.

One of the journalists is based at the Chinese news agency's main Middle East bureau in Cairo, and the second represents the agency in Amman. There have recently been contacts with the PRC on widening the scope of its reporting from the Middle East, including Israel.

The visit was not coordinated with the Foreign Ministry, but after Jerusalem learned of their arrival, the Ministry arranged for the two journalists to enter the country and put them up at a Jerusalem hotel.

The journalists said last night that they have come on a private visit and so far do not have any plans to meet Israeli political figures. One of them said they plan to meet a friend—a Chinese student studying in Israel—and plan the rest of their stay with him .

Citrus Export Agreement Signed With SFRY

TA2610143788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p 14

[Report by Avi Gan'or]

[Excerpt] The Citrus Marketing Board has signed an agreement to export 35,000 tons of citrus, to be shipped during the 1988/89 season, to the SFRY. The deal totals over $10 million.

During this season the Yugoslavs will buy lemons, oranges, and grapefruits. According to the Board's reports, this year's exports received prices 13 percent higher than those obtained in the 1987/88 season. Some 50 percent of the deal would be in the form of a barter exchange. The SFRY would pay cash for 50 percent of the fruit, while the rest would be bartered for wood used in the production of boxes and platforms.

The SFRY, which maintains no diplomatic relations with Israel, is today the main recipient of citrus exports in the Eastern Bloc. The SFRY is not a new client for Israel's citrus growers. It has been reported that despite its difficult financial situation, the SFRY strictly adheres to the mutual deals signed with Israel.

EC Ministers Protest Use of Plastic Bullets

TA2710054388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Ministers of the European Community have condemned the use of plastic bullets in the territories and have urged Israel to withdraw them. The Greek, West German, and Spanish foreign ministers have sent a protest to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. The European foreign ministers claim that the use of plastic bullets only increases tension in the territories.

UN To Investigate Observers Role in E. Jerusalem

TA2710090188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] UN observers occasionally observe police operations in the East Jerusalem village of Jabal al-Mukabar. Their presence is requested by the village residents. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that during one of the operations, a UN officer watched the proceedings from his car and then toured the village.

The Foreign Ministry claims that the UN observers have no authority to observe events inside the boundaries of the State of Israel.

The UN spokesman has said that the observers do not keep track of the activities of the police and that he will investigate the matter.

Egypt, Jordan 'Most Loyal' to PLO Cause

TA2610183888 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Oct 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Summit That Gladdened Hearts and Revived Hopes"]

[Text] The tripartite summit meeting in Aqaba was the crowning of immense efforts exerted by Egypt stemming from its pioneering role in advancing the peace process. Egypt has always held a unique status in the life of the Arab nation and in the process of its struggle. For years now Egypt has discovered that political action is as hard as military action. Egypt is well aware, as are others in the Arab nation, that the present circumstances in the Arab world do not leave any room for a military option.

Egypt is also well aware that time is not working in favor of the Palestinian problem. Israel wants to procrastinate and gain time to impose a fait accompli. The Egyptian move and Egyptian sacrifices were made from a pan-Arab premise. Egypt worked quietly to achieve its aims, and succeeded in arranging this meeting by diligent work.

Egypt's concern for the Palestinian cause is not new. It converges with Jordan in these constants and principles. Despite all the efforts of prejudiced people, the PLO has always found that Egypt and Jordan are the most loyal brothers, and the most concerned with the Palestinian cause. The eruption of the uprising in the occupied territories proved that no Arab state supports the uprising except Jordan and Egypt. The other Arab countries sufficed by paying lip service to the heroism of our people with greetings through the air waves.

Moreover, Jordan responded positively to the request of the brothers in the PLO by cutting its ties with the West Bank. By this action Jordan placed the PLO in its right place, before its responsibilities, and drove Israel and its ally, the United States, into a corner. Israel's leaders can

no longer entertain the thought that the Jordanian option will save them from their dilemma, because there is no option left now except the Palestinian one which is the peace option.

This meeting proves that the PLO and the Palestinian people are not alone in the march, but that Jordan and Egypt will remain the effective support of the Palestinian people's struggle and of their steadfastness over their sacred soil until a comprehensive settlement is realized, the Palestinian people gain their legitimate rights, and a real peace is established in the region.

It has become clear that coordination between the PLO and Jordan is inevitable, especially if it is supported by a clear and firm Arab stand. The Palestinian problem, with its pan-Arab dimension, is the definite guarantee for putting Israel into a quandary, as well as for exerting pressure on it and on its allies, to advance toward peace.

The kinfolk in the occupied territories breathed easier, and signs of satisfaction became visible, over the fact that the brothers are again working together for the sake of the central Arab cause. Those forces that reject this coordination and this positive move will never succeed.

A political solution will lack seriousness without this coordination, and the parties will be confused in putting the priorities in their right place. There is no doubt that the least they have accomplished is allowing us to see the light and witness the end of this nightmare which we have lived for 21 years. We see freedom and the end of occupation.

MA'ARIV Reviews Jordan's Conditions for Peace

TA2610181588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p A18

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Aqaba Does not Portend Compromises;" boldface as published]

[Text] The Aqaba summit between President Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat is a political event worthy of scrutiny. It must not be dismissed by routine reactions, colored by the election campaign.

Neither should the event which preceded that meeting—Husayn's interview with the American "Nightline" program—be judged by the circumstances in which it was born, namely by the fact that Peres' men had organized that dramatic interview with Husayn, as the interviewer, Ted Koppel, himself testified, so as to make electoral gains.

Husayn stated, "Peres' proposal regarding a return to the international conference and the possibility that the West Bank residents would elect their representatives to the peace talks, even if these are related to the PLO, is a step forward. If the Likud wins the elections, it will be an absolute disaster for the region." The king's statement may have made the Alignment election headquarters happy and the Likud resentful, but this is not the important part of Husayn's interview. The really significant part is his statement that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians. What is, in fact, the novelty in this? Has Husayn never said it before?

Indeed, he has, but this time his pronouncement is more significant, more purposeful. Saying what he did, he already knew about the upcoming meeting in Aqaba. This was the PLO leader's condition for coming to the Aqaba summit, which was arranged by Cairo in order to revive the February 1985 agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat.

Interviewer Koppel asked the understandable question: No offense, sir—he said to Husayn—if the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, why do you have to take part in the process?

The king's answer was: Because we still have the longest border with Israel of any Arab state. We are still an involved party and are committed to the cause of peace.

This is not the true answer. Husayn knows very well that he is not endangered by Israel, because Israel has never attacked him. In all the past wars, it was he who attacked Israel, joining forces with the Egyptian and Syrian armies. He must undoubtedly know that even without peace, Israel will not plot against his kingdom. The significant part of his answer is the closing line—"We are still an involved party."

What is the king's involvement in the process and why does he want to be part of it?

The answer is simply that he has rescued whatever he could from the fire. The king realizes that he cannot resume power in Judaea and Samaria, but he wants to retain at least Jordan's special relation to the region, because he believes this is the only way he can preserve Jordan's present constellation in the East Bank. The royal court in Amman has reached the conclusion that it is essential to adopt a policy of active involvement in Judaea and Samaria and in the shaping of the solution to the Palestinian problem, so as to prevent a situation in which the Palestinians, unable to win the "West Bank," would attempt to shake the "East Bank" (Jordan).

Husayn believes that only by participation in the peace process will he be able to secure an arrangement that would not threaten his kingdom. It is a known fact that Jordan had appealed to Washington to recognize the Palestinians' right to self determination, but to oppose the establishment of a PLO-headed sovereign state.

Having sounded the possibilities, Egypt managed to convene Husayn and 'Arafat for a renewed discussion.

It was no accident that the Aqaba summiteers did not publicize their agreements. The reason is simple: Husayn's concessions to the PLO might frighten Israel,

while the "concessions" 'Arafat is prepared to make are apt to scare the PLO extremists. The little that has leaked out of the Aqaba debates, however, offers grounds for the conclusion that, in any event, there is no basis for an Israeli-Jordanian arrangement, unless Israel agrees to withdraw to the 1967 borders and to concur with the establishment of a West Bank "Palestinian entity," which would be connected to Jordan. This entity would enjoy maximum independence even if it is not a full-fledged state in its initial stages.

If 'Arafat is promised the above, he will agree to recognize Resolution 242, and so forth, on the condition that in return, Israel acknowledges the principle of "self determination" for the Palestinians. This is, "presumably," the new strategy of Husayn, Mubarak, and 'Arafat.

Husayn, as an "involved party," sees this as a convenient arrangement so long as the "confederative connection" between the two banks leaves him with enough influence to safeguard his kingdom. As for Israel—Husayn cannot commit himself to more than "territories for peace." This means that he is willing to make peace with Israel after the latter withdraws completely from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and after he is accorded a substantial status in Jerusalem although not necessarily a return to the 1967 conditions. Even if Husayn were willing to achieve a territorial compromise with Israel, he would be unable to do so. He is a captive in the hands of the PLO.

It was natural for Washington to have commended the Aqaba summit. Even when PLO spokesman Bassam published a document referring to a Palestinian state "alongside Israel," the State Department spokesperson announced in Washington, on Shultz' instructions, that "the (Abu Sharif) document contains several positive elements, but it is not authoritative." In off-the-record briefings, U.S. officials made it clear that had 'Arafat given the "Abu Sharif document" his blessing, the U.S. reaction would have been more enthusiastic.

'Arafat's "public blessing" is what Egypt, with Jordan's consent, is now attempting to obtain. It is obvious to all, including Washington, Moscow, and the European community, what the issue is: "Self determination for the Palestinians is a condition for peace.

Therefore, all the arguments concerning the question of how Husayn's interview on "Nightline" was organized and who instigated the Aqaba summit "just before the Israeli elections" is not important. What is important is the substance: the uncompromising conditions for peace posed by Jordan and the Palestinians.

AL-FAJR Calls on Voters To Support 'Peace'

TA2610191988 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 26 Oct 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Votes of Peace"]

[Text] The appeals issued two days ago by the PLO to the Jewish and Arab voters in Israel, on the occasion of the approaching 12th Knesset elections at the beginning of next month, represent a conscious and clear response to the prevailing political climate in the region. They affirm the fateful importance of the results of these elections. It is either peace—which is the approach adopted by the PLO and which it affirmed by issuing the two appeals—or war. This requires all of us to face and define the decision on the level of the Israeli destiny that is converging, in this context, with the Palestinian destiny.

The peace decision is no longer an impractical dream. The realities produced by the events, as well as the international reconciliation that is devoting itself to resolving regional problems and issues throughout the world on political foundations that consolidate peace and stability, provide an incentive toward a real possibility of converting this contemporary dream into a definite reality for all the parties concerned.

The Israeli voter, who can no longer close his eyes and ears to the quickening realities and events before and around him, is required to face this decision. These elections—the outcome of which he will determine with his vote—are not ordinary, because the outcome at the current historical junction will naturally not be ordinary.

As to the Arab voter in Israel, he is required—at this same historical junction—to move beyond the traditional expression of protest onto the stage of effectiveness and solid impact with the electoral vote that he possesses, and through which he represents a large political force. The Arab voter must direct this force toward the decision of a comprehensive peace by concentrating his vote to strengthen the front of the Israeli forces and parties that are struggling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, that support the rights of our Palestinian people, and that recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of these people.

Peace is possible, as is war. But the possibility of a comprehensive and just peace—supported and consolidated by the will of nations who express this will with courage, sincerity, and wisdom, and who amass their powerful forces against potential new wars in the region and against the threats and hints of the calamities and disasters of a third world war—is the only possibility that is able to triumph and succeed at the decisive moment, and can end all causes of war.

SHAS Outlines Political Platform

TA2610152688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p 4

[SHAS (Torah Observing Sepharadim) movement election advertisement subtitled "Main Points of Platform"]

[Excerpts]

Jerusalem

The movement sees the holy city of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish people. Everything will be done to secure Jerusalem's uniqueness and its character as the spiritual-scholarly center for the entire Jewish people. [passage omitted]

Foreign and Defense Policy

The borders of Israel were stipulated in our holy Bible and the longing for a return to Zion and a greater Israel has never ceased. It is, however, the duty of Israel's leaders to persist in putting an end to the bloodshed in the region through negotiations for peace.

The movement will work to prevent the recruitment of girls for military, or other forms of national service. The movement will prevent any obstruction in the postponement of military service for the yeshiva student whose knowledge is his art, because the yeshiva is "the nursery of the nation's soul."

[Signed] SHAS—To Restore the Pristine Splendor.

Tzomet Advertisement Describes Defense Platform

TA2610150388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p 24

[Tzomet Movement election advertisement titled "All the Roads Lead to Tzomet (junction)"; boldface as published]

[Excerpt]

Main points of Tzomet platform
[passage omitted]

Defense

The goal of the defense policy is to secure our existence at a minimal cost (both in terms of human life and monetarily). This goal necessitates our continued hold of the mountain ridge (overlooking the whole strategic disposition within the Green Line), the Jordan rift valley, and secure access routes to these sectors. It is therefore impossible to give up parts of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip out of responsible defense considerations. Riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip must be taken care of with uncompromising determination through:—immediate deportation of anyone of who it is known has taken part in planning or committing violent acts against the state and its citizens;—economic and communal punishments in areas where backing and encouragement is given to hostile nationalistic activity;—establishing the method of territorial defense organization under the command and supervision of the IDF in order to ease the burden off the security forces and maintain law and order. [passage omitted]

Poll on Effect of PLO Declarations on Voting

TA2610143988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct p A4

[boldface as published]

[Excerpt] Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, director of the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute, during the third week of October examined whether possible declarations by the PLO could affect the Israeli public's voting intentions. The interviewees were asked whether they will change their planned vote "if before the elections, the PLO declares that it is abandoning terror," "if before the elections, the PLO declares a Palestinian state," and "if before the elections, the PLO declares both abandoning terrorism and the establishment of a Palestinian state."

The breakdown of the answers listed here reveals that only 3 percent of the respondents believed that the PLO declarations could change their vote.

The poll was conducted through personal interviews with 1,254 respondents constituting a representative nationwide sample of the Israeli adult Jewish population. No interviews were conducted in kibbutzim and settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

	Will change my vote	Will not change my vote	Do not know	Total
PLO declares abandoning terror	3.6	86.6	9.8	100.0
PLO declares Palestinian state	3.4	86.3	10.3	100.0
PLO declares both Palestinian state and abandoning terror	3.4	86.1	10.5	100.0

Unified Command Cancels Strike, Supports Hamas

TA2610123288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Unified Command of the Uprising in the territories has called off a strike scheduled for today in commemoration of the Kafr Qasim massacre. The cancellation was prompted by a leaflet, disseminated by Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), calling on the residents to stage a strike on Saturday in commemoration of the same event.

The cancellation is an unprecedented act in the history of the intifada [uprising], and is indicative of an attempt on the part of the PLO supporters to reach an understanding with the Muslim fundamentalist elements in the territories. [passage omitted]

Further on Unrest, Casualties in Territories

Strike, Firebombs in Gaza

TA2610114888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] This morning a young resident of Jabalyah was wounded by a plastic bullet fired at him by an IDF soldier. The youth had attempted to hurl a firebomb at an IDF patrol. The wounded youth was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. This morning two firebombs were thrown at the same place and caused no damage. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that a general services and commercial strike is being staged today in Gaza.

Firebomb Victim Returns Fire

TA2610115688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p 7

[Report by David Regev, Yitzhaq Ravyihya, Nitza Aviram, Hayim Broida, and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at an Israeli fuel truck near the Faris market in Gaza yesterday. The bomb hit the truck and exploded. Arab eyewitnesses said that the driver left the vehicle and fired several shots at passersby, wounding three of them.

The IDF spokesman's reaction: The driver did shoot in the air, but no information was received concerning casualties in this incident. [passage omitted]

Buses Stoned, 1 Injured

TA2610165088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] This evening a passenger of a bus traveling on the Pat-Gilo road was slightly injured by fragments of a windshield smashed by stones thrown at a No 32 bus. Earlier, stones were thrown at two empty buses traveling on the Hebron highway. Our correspondent Yosi Koren reports that there were no casualties and the buses were only slightly damaged.

3 Arabs Wounded in Nabulus

TA2610194488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Three Arab youths were wounded by IDF gunfire during stone-throwing incidents in the Nabulus casbah. The IDF operated in dozens of villages and other places throughout Judaea and Samaria today. [passage omitted]

Girl Said To Die of Tear Gas

TA2610210788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A 3-year old girl died in the Khan Yunus hospital this evening. Her parents claim she died of tear gas inhalation. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the girl was brought to the hospital in serious condition and later died. At the request of the IDF, her body was transferred to the Abu Kabir forensic institute to determine the cause of death.

Civil Defense Commander on Gas Attack Protection

TA2610140888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The HAGA [Civil Defense] Command will begin distributing gas attack protection kits in December. In the initial phase it will hold a trial run in Shlomi and Ramat Hasharon. The HAGA Command simultaneously issued a new booklet of instructions dealing with civilian defense. Brigadier General Aharon Vardi, the HAGA commander, told a news conference for military correspondents that 85 percent of shelters in Israel are in good condition, which is not bad. It is better than any other country in the world, although we of course aspire to 100 percent. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The rear is protected against a gas attack if it occurs, Gen Aharon Vardi, said, adding that the emergency warehouses have gas masks for each person in Israel. [passage omitted]

Bank Transfers From Jordan Ordered Halved

TA2610144388 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Exclusive AL-QUDS report]

[Text] Ramallah—The Cairo-Amman Bank management has received a military order from the West Bank commander calling for the reduction of funds transferred from Amman to West Bank residents from 400 to 200 dinars per person monthly. This order is effective as of the beginning of November.

In another development, Colonel Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in the West bank, has stated that the Cairo-Amman Bank branches will continue operation as usual because they operate according to the agreement concluded with the bank's management.

Increasing Number of S. Lebanese Work in Galilee

TA2610152888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The number of Lebanese employees in Galilee industrial plants has increased. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that 300 Lebanese workers are employed in western Galilee settlements. In Shelomi, for instance, 85 Lebanese have jobs. The Lebanese laborers prefer to work in Israeli industrial plants because their pay is up to eight times higher than what they receive in Lebanon.

Ofeq-1 Expected To Remain in Orbit Until 1989

TA2710100988 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 88 p 3

[Report by Tamir Shefer]

[Text] The Ofeq-1 experimental satellite launched by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] does not want to come down. Recent studies by IAI engineers estimate that Ofeq-1 will succeed in staying in orbit until 1989 and will probably burn out on 15 January. This would extend the satellite's orbit in space to almost 4 months, in contrast to initial estimates that referred to only 1 month.

IAI sources linked Ofeq-1's extended life expectancy to several things: They say the satellite has stored more kinetic energy than planned, because it was launched into space at a high speed. The speed increased the maximum altitude of its orbit, which extended its life expectancy by 1 month. In addition, the calculations that showed a 1-month orbit were minimum estimates. It has also been claimed that the excellent work invested in the satellite extended its life expectancy.

King Husayn Views Aqaba Talks, Other Issues

JN2610134088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's monarch King Husayn has stressed that the time is now ripe to hold the ordinary Arab summit scheduled to meet in Saudi Arabia in November. He said that he will hold contacts with Saudi Arabia to discuss this issue. He pointed out that Riyadh is concerned about all that benefits the Arab homeland.

In an interview to be published by the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH tomorrow, Thursday, King Husayn added that his talks with Saudi officials will focus on the summit and the possibility of holding it at the scheduled time.

King Husayn said that the situation in Lebanon must be discussed regardless of whether the summit convenes or not, through the contacts that are being held on the highest level in the Arab world. King Husayn stressed that the current discussion focuses on what can be done to find a way out of the current situation and to prevent the partitioning and collapse of Lebanon.

Commenting on developments in the Lebanese arena, King Husayn said that the problems have reached a serious point and this has enabled and is enabling several sides outside Lebanon and the Arab homeland to influence, one way or another, the situation in Lebanon.

King Husayn said the tripartite Aqaba meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last Saturday was held in an extremely comfortable and positive atmosphere. He expressed the belief that the PLO is now at the stage of crystallizing its stand to embark on a political effort from the position of responsibility it assumes. King Husayn said that the joint delegation to the peace talks, or the confederation issue, were not discussed. He explained that this subject is still premature.

Regarding recent reports on a Jordanian approach toward an Arab economic unity similar to the EEC, King Husayn stressed: We are preparing some studies on this issue. We believe that the time is now ripe to propose the idea. By proposing this formula we do not aim to establish axis but to have our brothers rally around the idea and consequently to serve ourselves and the Arab march.

Radio Cites Husayn AL-HAYAH Interview

JN2710082388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] London—His Majesty King Husayn has said that it is high time to convene an Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon on the highest Arab level.

In an exclusive interview with the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH, to be published today, His Majesty King Husayn said problems in Lebanon have reached a most critical stage, which has enabled and is enabling many quarters outside Lebanon and outside the Arab homeland to influence the situation in this country in one way or another.

His majesty added that he will soon launch contacts with Saudi officials to discuss the convening of an Arab summit. The issue now is what can be done to overcome the current situation and avert the partition and collapse of Lebanon. His majesty stressed that the situation in Lebanon should be discussed, regardless of whether the summit is held or not, within the framework of the contacts taking place on the highest levels in the Arab world.

Regarding his majesty's assessment of the Aqaba summit, he said the meeting was positive and very satisfactory. His majesty said he believed the PLO is in the process of crystallizing its positions and launching a political effort based on the responsibility it is now directly and principally shouldering. I believe this position will soon crystallize.

On Jordan-PLO relations, His Majesty King Husayn said there is desire to continue consultations, and I believe that Mr 'Arafat will visit Jordan after the PNC session—scheduled to be held in Algiers on 12 November.

His majesty said the Aqaba talks neither touched on the issue of a joint delegation nor on that of confederation between Jordan and the proposed Palestinian state. His Majesty King Husayn added that the confederation concept was initiated, in our view, in order to pave the way for the PLO to play its role in representing the Palestinian people on the international level and within the framework of the international conference.

His majesty said that the new situation that resulted from our measures on 31 July pertaining to severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank rendered any discussion of this subject premature.

His Majesty King Husayn referred to a Jordanian initiative to form an Arab economic unity similar to the EEC. His majesty said: We are currently preparing some studies on this subject, and we believe that circumstances are ripe to launch this idea.

Concluding, his majesty said: We, at this stage, are preparing the formula of the unity plan. We will try to launch it, not for the sake of forming axes but to make the Arab brothers rally around it, thus serving ourselves and the Arab march.

Cabinet Sets Up Committee To Coordinate Economy

JN2510215988 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers today set up a special committee to follow up the implementation of the government's recent economic, monetary, and financial policies.

The committee comprises the general secretaries of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Customs, Finance, Supply, Planning, Agriculture, Public Works, and the Central Bank, as well as the director of the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY and the economic advisor to the Prime Minister's Office.

The committee has been entrusted with coordinating sound policies among various ministries. It has also been authorized to establish direct contacts with the economic sectors concerned in order to convey facts about the situation, remedy any particular case, or present any necessary proposals.

Officials Explain Economic Policies at Symposium

JN2610081088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 88 p 6

[By Nirmeen Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Economic officials and businessmen agree that the Jordanian government and the public will have to join hands in facing the difficult economic transition period and should tighten belts to achieve a better balance between spending and earning, whether at the household level or in government public expenditure.

At a symposium-dinner held by the Business and Professional Womens Club at the Plaza Hotel Monday, Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba', Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Mahir Shukri and Income Tax Department General-Manager Salman al-Tarawinah discussed the Kingdom's economic policies and their impact on the investment climate in Jordan.

Questions posed to the three lecturers by a large number of businessmen and moneychangers attending the symposium clearly indicated the public's concern with the changing economic situation in the Kingdom, and called for clear and well studied plans by the different government departments involved to stop the fluctuation of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies.

Questions also expressed concern over the "sudden and surprising measures" adopted by the government after repeated statements to the public that the economic situation would not change drastically.

Attendants at the symposium called for greater public participation in the formulation of government economic measures and a more accurate, candid and complete flow of information on domestic economic trends.

Shukri explained that even though indications of a weakening economy in the Kingdom were evident in 1986, "we were unable to adopt measures then because of other forces in the market which called upon us to wait and handle the more pressing problems at hand."

He said that in 1986 Jordan suffered the bankruptcy of two very well established moneychangers and many private companies were going through reorganising processes, so "there was no way that we could impose strong economic measures which would have created investor worry in the Kingdom."

Shukri outlined the reasons which led to the government's implementation of economic measures which would allow the Jordanian dinar to find its natural value and stop government backing for what was described as the dinar's unrealistically high value.

He explained that the lack of sufficient foreign exchange with the government to cover the needs of the commercial banks and the economy as a whole was the major factor behind the measures.

"There was an unnecessary outflow of foreign exchange by the private sector," Shukri said, which he estimated as ranging between JD 100-200 million.

The moves were designed to reduce imports, and encourage and increase exports. Through the adjustment of the JD rate, buying foreign products would become expensive while the price of local goods would be more reasonable and more conducive to exporting.

Budget and trade deficits also were prime reasons behind the new economic measures. The government was spending more than it received in budget support from Gulf states and in taxes, while the trade deficit was a result of our importing more than we export.

Both Shukri and Al-Tabba' pointed out two reasons characterising the fluctuation of the Jordanian economy in general and industry in particular. "First, Jordan depends greatly on budget support from other Arab countries in its status as a confrontation state and it is not a major manufacturing and exporting country," Al-Tabba' told the large audience.

Jordan was receiving aid from oil-producing Gulf states in support of its steadfastness as a confrontation state with Israel, in accordance with the recommendations of the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit.

Al-Tabba' pointed out that Jordan's imports far exceed its exports and cited as an example the import of Bulgarian meat. "Jordan imports as much as 12,000 tonnes of Bulgarian meat at the cost of JD 60 million paid in dollars," Al- Tabba' said.

Twenty per cent of the imported meat may be consumed by the public solely for the Jordanian (national dish) mansaf, which "clearly indicates a problem in our consumption and is also a clear indication that we import far more than we need," he added.

Commenting on the options available to the Central Bank to regulate the price of the Jordanian dinar, Shukri said: "The Central Bank intervened but it was not announced and the other option would have been comparatively drastic."

He explained that the government was faced with the option of completely preventing foreign currency outflows and even preventing people from spending money outside the country to save foreign currency, "but the adjustment we applied seemed more plausible."

Shukri pointed out that the government has promised to cut down on its spending but said that government spending would be hard to curb since 40 per cent of the budget is spent on defence and salaries and 20 per cent for repayment of international and local debts "which clearly indicates that 60 per cent of the budget cannot be cut."

He predicted the rate of inflation would probably reach eight per cent in the next 6 months.

Asked why the tax law is not tied to the annual budget as practiced in foreign countries, Al-Tarawinah said "Until today the Jordanians do not pay a fixed percentage of the budget, Arab countries do." But he added "we should tax and we should be the ones financing our budget."

Earlier, Al-Tabba', said that the series of economic measures adopted by the Jordanian Cabinet in August aimed to encourage investment by the private sector. He summarised those measures in five categories:

—Facilitate the official procedures especially those concerned with establishing new projects or expanding the existing ones.

—Implement a number of institutional measures which include establishing new institutions such as the Department of Investment Monitoring in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the establishment of a Higher Committee for Exports and the unification of the Industrial Estate Corporation and the Free Zones Corporation.

—Review the incentives and facilities granted to the private sector in investment and exports.

—Substitute total protectionism with customs protectionism for almost all locally produced products.

—Provide credit facilities to finance and encourage exports of local products.

Finance Minister Fixes Dinar Exchange Rates

JN2610074988 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Finance Minister Hanna al-Awdah Tuesday announced a decision fixing the exchange rates of foreign currency against the Jordanian dinar with a view to facilitating the importation process, adopting firm exchange rates and stabilising the prices of imported commodities.

Following are the new exchange rates, which will be in force as of Oct. 28.
U.S. dollar—430 fils
Sterling pound—752.40
Deutsche mark—239.80
French franc—70.15
Swiss franc—282.80
Italian lire (for 100)—32.20
Japanese yen (for 100)—339.35
Dutch guilder—212.65
Canadian dollar—363.95
Spanish peseta (for 10)—36.40
Australian dollar—351.10
Belgian franc (for 10)—114.40
Austrian schilling—34.10
Swedish krona—69.20
Norwegian krone—64.30
Cypriot pound—907.95
Turkish lira (for 100)—25.60
Iraqi dinar—383.50
Kuwaiti dinar—1,532.50
Syrian pound—38.30
Saudi riyal—114.65
Danish krone—62.05
Greek drachma (for 10)—29.10

The minister's decision was made in accordance with the Central Bank bulletin for the purpose of calculation and collection of customs duties on imported commodities.

In another development, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i Tuesday decided to form a special committee grouping secretaries-general of the ministries of industry and trade, finance and customs, supply, planning, agriculture and public works, the Central Bank of Jordan, the director of the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY (PETRA), and the Prime Ministry's economic advisor to follow up and ensure the smooth implementaion of the recent economic measures and to achieve coordination among the various government ministries and departments.

The committee will also be in charge of maintaining direct contacts with the economic sectors concerned to get first-hand information about the economic situation and to study whatever procedures may be needed to deal with any case that may arise and to propose solutions to rectify any irregular situation.

During a meeting Tuesday, the Cabinet also agreed to extend JD [Jordanian dinar] 74,000 in financial support for charitable societies in Jordan provided that such assistance be paid from the allocations of the Ministry of Social Development.

The Cabinet also decided to exempt machinery and supplies imported by municipal and village councils from customs duties and all other taxes.

The Cabinet also fixed the Jordanian Government's contribution to the United Nations Development Programme at $415,000.

CBJ Deputy on Money Market, Contingency Plans
JN2510133088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 88 p 6

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—The "dollar fever" in the Jordanian currency market is gradually cooling down and stability seems to be just round the corner, according to government officials as well as private sector moneychangers.

A new trend which reversed the process of the marked increase in the value of the American currency against the Jordanian dinar was seen in the market since last Wednesday, but it is not clear yet how long it would take for the greenback to arrive at a reasonable steady price against the dinar.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Mahir Shukri, confirming that the reverse trend gained momentum last week, expresses hope that the situation would be stable soon in light of the fall of the U.S. dollar in the international market.

Shukri, in an exclusive interview with the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y, said everyone who possessed U.S. dollars could be adversely affected by the expected decline in the currency's value in the local market. Hani al-Sa'udi, a leading moneychanger in Amman, agrees that the demand for U.S. dollars is falling. He noted that the demand was growing since May 1988, "when ordinary citizens appeared to join a scramble for American dollars along with commerical banks."

"Now the size of demand is shrinking," Al-Sa'udi said, "But we are still awaiting actual stability in the dinar-dollar equation."

'Abd al-Ra'uf Sultan, another moneychanger, attributes part of the blame in the dramatic rise in demand for the dollar to speculative trends. "People started buying the dollar as a commodity to gain profits rather than transferring abroad." he said. "This led to a crisis in the supply situation and the subsequent crisis."

Sultan advocates tighter CBJ monitoring and control of the situation and intervention whenever necessary.

Shukri, on the other hand, said he found a dire need for closer coordination among moneychangers, commercial banks and the CBJ to accelerate the dollar stabilisation process and to avert further crises. Shukri confirmed that the Central Bank had drawn up contingency plans to intervene in the market whenever it felt the need for such action and whenever it feels any bank is in need of foreign currency.

"These plans were adopted after a thorough study conducted by the Central Bank on Jordan's balance of payments since 1975," he said.

"The Central Bank is very much aware of what is going on in the market," he added. "We have information that most of the needs of importers, in terms of foreign exchange needed for letters of credit, has been taken care of," he said adding that the involved sum amounted to about $200 million.

Meanwhile, action began to appear at the Amman financial market since last Monday. A broker told the JORDAN TIMES that most of the people think that it is safer for them to invest their money in the stock market, out of their desire to get guaranteed profits.

He added that the size of the daily transactions increased from JD 250,000 to JD 2,750,000 since last Monday.

Islamic Jihad Releases New Photo of Hostage

NC2710131588 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group produced a new colour photograph of American Terry Anderson on his 41st brithday Thursday, more than three and a half years after his kidnapping in West Beirut.

The photograph of Mr. Anderson, a journalist with the ASSOCIATED PRESS in the Middle East, accompanied a communique received by a Western news agency accusing Italy of plotting against the group. [passage omitted]

PLO Holding Contacts To Free Hostages

JN2710071588 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAM)—In its weekly issue today, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says the PLO is currently holding contacts behind the scenes with Lebanese parties having connections with the kidnappers of foreign nationals in Beirut to release them. The hostages include a number of Americans.

The paper explains that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat recently sent a special delegate to Beirut to follow up these contacts. If these contacts succeed in releasing some of the foreign hostages, there will be wide positive reactions in the United States and Europe toward the PLO.

Al-Huss Interviewed on Future, Options

JN2610111488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Oct 88 p 20

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss by an unidentified reporter in Beirut within a dispatch from the Beirut bureau—date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Some people have described the security and political developments in the eastern areas on the evening of 22 September and afterwards as the final steps toward establishing a Christian state, about which there has been much talk over the past years, and partitioning Lebanon, while others view what has happened as only a tempest in a teacup, which will end as soon as the Lebanese sides agree to elect a new president. How do you view these two opinions and the future situation in Lebanon?

[Al-Huss] There is no doubt that what happened after 22 September was very grave. Lebanon was placed on the brink of the abyss. The question for Lebanon now is to be or not to be. For the first time, Lebanon's citizens feel that the danger of partition is imminent and that Lebanon's fate is being determined by those who are calling for its partition under slogans such as federation.

On previous occasions, we said that the advocates of the little Lebanon project have used the presidential election as a trap to destroy the unity and entity of Lebanon as a homeland and a state. Now they are in no hurry to elect a new president.

The vacuum caused by the failure to hold a presidential election has enabled these sides to start to implement their project. They need more time to complete and strengthen the project, and they believe that time is on their side. Therefore, they want to delay the presidential election. We will not be exaggerating if we say that the situation after 22 September is very grave and threatens Lebanon's unity and entity.

The problem Lebanon is facing can be solved if obstacles to electing a new president are overcome. The only way to end the current crisis in Lebanon is simply to elect a new president, who can restore unity to the legitimate authority through a new government.

[Reporter] Some Lebanese sides call for the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis as a result of proposals by some countries, such as France. Other sides oppose the idea of internationalization and view past experiences in this regard as completely dicouraging. Do you think that the current circumstances in Lebanon are ripe for the success of international initiatives to solve the Lebanese crisis, especially if these intiatives are coupled with the approval of the Security Council?

[Al-Huss] We admit that Lebanon needs foreign assistance to overcome its ordeal. By this we do not call for internationalization because we believe that it will further complicate the crisis. Internationalization means placing the solution in the hands of foreign forces. As a result, any solution will depend on the agreement of these forces.

As relations among countries are governed by many factors in addition to the Lebanese issue, it is clear that internationalization will further complicate the situation. Much of our suffering and difficulties may have resulted from some Lebanese sides' insistence on internationalizing the Lebanese crisis.

Therefore, the solution has become linked with foreign efforts, like those being exerted by special envoys and ambassadors of important countries. I say that we need such efforts, but I believe that we should avoid any additional internationalization, which will further complicate the situation.

[Reporter] Some people call for an Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon. Do you believe that such a summit, if held, will be effective and useful and will help Lebanon overcome its ordeal, or will its resolutions be ink on paper because of existing relations among some Arab countries?

[Al-Huss] We deeply regret fraternal Iraq's support for the so-called military government against my legitimate government, although the so-called military government is illegitimate because it was formed in violation of the national charter and provisions of the Constitution. Undoubtedly, this position has caused contradictions in the Arab arena on the Lebanese crisis—a fact that will prevent the convening of any conference within the framework of the Arab League to deal with the Lebanese crisis or, if any meeting within the Arab League is held, will prevent any effective or decisive resolutions to help Lebanon end its ordeal.

This also applies to any Arab summit held to discuss the Lebanese issue. However, we hope that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi's current efforts to arrange for the convening of the Arab League Council on the foreign ministers' level will succeed. This meeting may pave the way for the convening of an Arab summit if the foreign ministers decide on that.

We need an Arab initiative on the highest level to help us overcome our crisis, which is threatening our homeland's unity and existence. This danger should be a national and pan-Arab concern, just as it is a Lebanese concern, because Lebanon has become a weak link in the Arab chain. If the Lebanese link is hit, the Arab chain will be cut. We will not be exagerating if we warn that if Lebanon is partitioned, God forbid, it will become a pan-Arab disaster; no Arab country will be able to escape the consequences.

Al-Rasi Discusses Elections, Other Issues

JN2710105488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Oct 88 p 19

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi by Zuhayr Majid in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] [Majid] How would you describe the political and security developments that took place in the eastern areas after 22 September, and how would you view the future situation in Lebanon?

[Al-Rasi] What happened on 22 September, that is, the appointment of a military government, was extremely serious. Despite our warning and despite efforts to avert our current situation, former president Amin al-Jumayyil made an unforgivable mistake against Lebanon by appointing the so-called military government in contravention of the spirit of the Constitution and the norms, traditions, and basic rules on which the Lebanese homeland and the formula of Lebanese coexistence were founded.

What is more serious is that collusion between the Army commander and the militias calling themselves "the Lebanese Forces." This collusion obstructed democratic parliamentary life in Lebanon by blocking the presidential election sessions and creating this divisionist atmosphere, which we hope will only be a tempest in a teapot. Nevertheless, I believe that this situation will be very serious if it persists, especially since in the past we hoped the Army would put an end to the abnormal practices of the Lebanese Forces' militias. Such a hope does not exist at present. I support those who stick to the unity of this country, and they are many. We will fight partition tirelessly and with all our capabilities because such partition will lead to the fragmentation and disappearance of Lebanon.

[Majid] How far have Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr's efforts to bring the views of various parties closer and to find a way out of the current crisis gone?

[Al-Rasi] The good efforts the Maronite patriarchate is exerting are aimed at finding a solution to the present situation. However, the Maronite patriarchate possesses only moral authority and does not have guns, tanks, or an army to impose its opinion by force. Its good offices are being hampered by the prevailing atmosphere in the eastern areas.

It is an atmosphere of militia control and obstruction of the role of the Lebanese Army because this Army's commander has imposed himself as president of the Republic and is not ready to do anything to create a democratic climate for the presidential elections.

[Majid] Does this mean that Patriarch Sfayr's efforts have reached an impasse?

[Al-Rasi] This does not mean the efforts have reached an impasse; these efforts should continue tirelessly until we reach the desired goal.

[Majid] A few days ago you said no elections will be held for a speaker for the Chamber of Deputies. What made you say so?

[Al-Rasi] This does not mean that I agree to that. I said that in view of what is happening on the ground, as there were attempts to prevent the deputies from holding the elections. As I said, if the deputies were given the choice, they would all attend to elect a president of the republic and a speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

[Majid] Do you have any future plans to face up to the current situation, especially if you think it will continue for a long time?

[Al-Rasi] We favor the unity of the homeland, institutions, people, and land. We have adopted a clear stand in this regard from the beginning of the crisis. At the first cabinet session after 23 September, I said no negative step should be taken and we should respond to every positive stand by the other party.

Moreover, we cannot remain silent over negative stands, especially since our government is the legitimate one and we recognize no other. we do not recognize anything that

is issued by the so-called military government, especially since this government holds its sessions without a quorum and this, in addition to its illlegitimacy, render its decisions illegal.

[Majid] Do you expect an armed confrontation between the rival parties if this situation continues for long and efforts to achieve an acceptable solution fail?

[Al-Rasi] We are against military escalation. Our experience in Lebanon bears witness to the fact that military confrontation will have no positive result. We will work to avoid military confrontation unless it is imposed on us.

[Majid] Are there any direct contacts between you and the members of the military government?

[Al-Rasi] There is absolutely no direct contact. However, from time to time, we receive goodwill mediators who endeavor not to see the crisis deepen even further.

[Majid] Have these mediators informed you that the Army commander in chief, Michel 'Awn, intends to run for president?

[Al-Rasi] No. I have not directly or indirectly been informed of this. But I infer this from General 'Awn's conduct on the ground. I have also heard from some fellow deputies that 'Awn is presenting himself as candidate for the presidency.

[Majid] In light of the failure to implement the Syrian-U.S. agreement on Lebanese elections, do you believe that this agreement will be modified, as some people say?

[Al-Rasi] At the beginning, I would like to explain the Syrian position. The Syrian officials, with President Hafiz al-Asad at their head, are seeking Lebanese-Lebanese reconciliation and presidential elections very sincerely and painstakingly.

When the United States got into the line of mediation after an employee of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut tried to block the 18 August session, Syria and the United states had a common aim—namely, to find the appropriate solution. Hence came the nomination of deputy Mikha'il Dahir, but the U.S. mediators were not able to reach this goal.

What matters now is the unification of the Lebanese homeland and the maintenance of its Arab policy and line. On the basis of this, what counts in this situation is not persons, but the destiny and unity of the Arab Lebanon. Moreover, the Lebanese Forces, on Israel's instructions, supervision, and guidance, intend not to elect a president for all Lebanon, because their aim is partition, which they are trying to cover with the name of the federation.

[Majid] Are the French ideas on internationalizing the presidential elections applicable?

[Al-Rasi] I personally think that this is unrealistic, although the French Government has good intentions and wants a solution to the crisis in the country. I think we should look for a solution in a different way.

[Majid] What is currently required from the Arabs to help Lebanon?

[Al-Rasi] The grave situation in Lebanon will negatively reflect on all the Arab countries. The partition scheme will extend to cover other Arab countries and will have negative ramifications on the Palestinian question. All the Arab officials know of Israel's plan to force hundred of thousands of Palestinians out of the West Bank. A large number of them will come to Lebanon. We can avoid this through the presence of a unified Lebanese state, able to combat this plan. All Arab officials must be aware of this danger and endeavor to save Lebanon from this catastrophe, which is awaiting us all.

Al-Rasi Says 1,000 Passports Missing

NC2510180388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] During a news conference he held at his residence, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi revealed that approximately 1,000 passports disappeared from the Public Security Directorate between 13 and 23 September. He said that these passports have been given to persons of non-Lebanese origin.

Minister al-Rasi promised to uncover the party that has perpetrated this action and to identify the persons who obtained the passports. He called on the Lebanese who obtained passports during the aforementioned period to report to distinguished commissioner Hafiz Shihadah to avoid any problems.

PLO Issues Statement on Israeli Raids

JN2610184688 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Statement issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command on 26 October; place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to the Israeli scheme of escalating their aggression against our camps in Lebanon within the framework of the conspiracy hatched with some agents from our Arab nation, U.S.-made F-15 Zionist enemy warplanes launched several raids against Palestinian civilians in the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp near Sidon at 1055 today.

Our antiaircraft weapons confronted the raiding enemy warplanes valiantly and prevented them from achieving their objectives. Therefore, the enemy warplanes dropped their missiles from high altitudes on Al-Ashrafiyyah, the squatters' building, and the garage area. The enemy planes were seen flying over the area's skies when this statement was issued; namely, at 1225 today.

The brutal raids resulted in many casualties among the ranks of our Palestinian people. Furthermore, they caused damage to civilian property. These barbarous operations against the sons of our people in the camps of the heroic southern Lebanon expose the extent of the Israeli-U.S. schemes in the region against our people and their camps.

These schemes will do nothing other than strengthen our people's resolve and determination to continue the fighting against this Zionist enemy until our people attain victory and establish their independent Palestinian state under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

UN Delegate Protests Israeli Raids

NC2610150488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, has notified Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Salim al-Huss that he filed a strongly worded memorandum with the Security Council today against the Israeli air raids. The memorandum calls for the implementation of UN security council resolutions and states that the Israeli occupation is the single most important cause of Lebanon's southern inhabitants suffering.

Further on Israeli Military Operations

'Over 15' People Wounded

NC2610121188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At 1103 today, a squadron of Israeli warplanes carried out raids on positions in the areas of Al-Ashrafiyah, Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and Sirub east of Sidon. These positions belong to the PFLP, DFLP, and Fatah. The Israeli aircraft fired 1500 pound caliber [as heard] rockets at these positions.

At 1107, the planes again raided Fatah movement positions in the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah area, as reported by REUTER news agency, which quoted security sources as saying that a pair of Israeli warplanes carried out the raids on these positions, while four other planes protected the raiding planes.

Preliminary reports said that more than 15 people, including a number of civilians, were wounded and taken to hospitals in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, and about 20 houses were destroyed. Rescue operations are still continuing in the Al-Ashrafiyah area. Ambulances are evacuating the casualties.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC2610130988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The Israeli enemy planes staged new raids today on positions and buildings in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and Al-Ashrafiyah area east of Sidon. The targets of the raids were positions of the Bayt al-Maqdis Battalion and Force-17 and two bases for the PFLP and the DFLP. Another target was Al-Miyah Wa Miyah school where Palestinian evacuees from the Tyre camps are residing.

Eyewitnesses reported that a five-member family is still under the debris and that a number of persons were seen flying in the air from the force of the explosions. The Voice of the Mountain correspondent in the South reported that 3 martyrs and 16 people fell victim to the raids, including Major Muhsin al-Hallaq, commander of the Bayt al-Maqdis Battalion, who suffered slight injuries. [passage omitted]

Palestinian official Mahmud al-Hasan said that the enemy raids killed 15 martyrs, including a family of 7 and 40 were wounded.

DFLP Spokesman on Raids

NC2610154088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A DFLP spokesman made the following statement this afternoon:

Israeli warplanes have been making intensive flights since this morning over the Palestinian positions and the Sidon camps in Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah. At 1100, the warplanes raided one of our positions in Tallat al-Ashrafiyah on the road to Tallat Sirub. The raid caused heavy material damage. The enemy planes also shelled the houses of civilian evacuees. Twenty-eight persons were injured and taken to hospitals. Three were later martyred.

The planes later raided our positions in Al-Naimah, but there were only material damages.

At the same time, the agent Lahd escalated his artillery shelling and moved his forces in an attempt to advance toward Kafr Jarrah. Patriotic [Lebanese] and Palestinian resistance fighters confronted and repulsed them.

Sorties Over Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC2610183188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Israeli warplanes today raided areas east of Sidon and along the Al-Shuf coastline. They resumed their sorties over the Iqlim al-Kharrub coast for 10 minutes at 1730 this evening.

Some 15 people were killed and 40 wounded in the air raids on Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp, centers belonging to Fatah Central Command on Jabal al-Halib, and a position belonging to the DFLP in 'Ayn al-Dulb. In addition to military positions, a two-story UNRWA school and 15 houses were destroyed according to an AFP correspondent who heard cries coming from under the rubble.

The command headquarters of Force 17 and Fatah's Bayt al-Maqdis Company were hit by rockets, causing property damage to a radius of 300 meters. [passage omitted]

Aircraft Raid Positions

NC2610124588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1233 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] We have just been informed that an Israeli raid was launched a few minutes ago against gunmen's positions in 'Aytat and Baysur [in the mountain area], and that the Israeli planes are still flying over the area.

Planes Hit Al-Damur Area

NC2610124988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1239 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes attacked the area between Al-Damur and Khaldah, specifically the hills in Khaldah, 'Aramun, and Al-Damur, a few minutes ago. The planes are still flying over the capital.

Aircraft Raid Beirut Area

NC2610125188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1240 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just been informed that Israeli warplanes flew in the skies of the southern suburb a short while ago drawing antiaircraft fire. The enemy aircraft raided the Al-Na'imah hills [south of Beirut] area a short while ago.

Western Al-Biqa' Shelled

NC2610125788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1251 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Our security correspondent just reported that there is heavy long range artillery shelling of 155 and 175 mm. The source of firing is the security zone and the target is Mashgharah and vicinity [western Al-Biqa'].

SLA Advances in East Sidon

NC2610130388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1257 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] We have just been informed from Sidon that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit is advancing toward the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir axes, particularly toward Hill 45-46, under a heavy artillery cover which looks like a limited advance operation, especially because Hill 45-46 was previously under the SLA control.

Further on Advance

NC2610135188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] is still advancing toward Karkha, east of Sidon, after taking over the areas of Al-Marah, Ayn al-Mir, and Tariq Liba. Our correspondent has reported that at least 4 members of the Nasirite Popular Organization were killed, three captured, and several others wounded, who have been taken to Sidon hospitals. Our correspondent adds that the SLA sustained no casualties. The military operations are accompanied by intensive artillery shelling.

SLA Evacuates Captured Areas

NC2610150788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1433 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] According to the latest information from the South, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] at 1611 started to voluntarily evacuate the areas it had earlier captured in Liba, Karkha, and Ayn al-Mir, after achieving its targets and overrunning the posts of the Nasirite Popular Organization there.

According to SLA sources, the Army will retain Hill 45, which had been taken earlier for strategic reasons. The same sources added that the SLA units taking part in the operation sustained no casualties.

Kafr Falus Battles Continue

NC2610152188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The clashes on the Kafr Falus frontline between the Popular Liberation Army and the agent militias, which are attempting to advance and occupy Al-Tallat al-Bayda, abated briefly this afternoon, but then started again. Various types of artillery and rockets are involved in the fierce fighting.

While the battles were raging, Israeli gunboats were sighted cruising offshore opposite Sidon.

Groups Declare Alert

NC2610160088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The nationalist and Islamic forces, as well as the Popular Liberation Army, have declared a state of general alert in their ranks and sent fighters in large numbers to the Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir front to take part in confronting the Israeli-backed attempts by the Lahd agent militias to advance, and also to foil any possible plans for a renewed invasion.

The Popular Liberation Army issued a statement this afternoon saying that the attack waged by the agent militias on the Al-Aysah hills has been repulsed. The Popular Liberation Army said that the agent militias attempted at 1450 to advance toward Al-Baydah. Our positions confronted the attackers, using various types of weapons. [passage omitted]

A military source at the Amal Movement said a while ago that the planes of the Israeli enemy had shelled Amal positions to the east of Sidon. The enemy also shelled Amal positions in Baysur, Al-Mharbiyah, Kafr Jarrah, and Al-Salihiyah, using 175- and 155-mm artillery. The source said that the shelling is continuing intermittently up to this time. [passage omitted]

3 Officers Captured

NC2610160988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from east of Sidon, the Popular Liberation Army forces mounted a counter-attack and retook Al-Tallat al-Bayda, which the agent Lahd forces and the [Israeli] occupation forces had seized earlier. The reports add that three officers from the enemy army who were leading the attack were taken prisoners. Four fighters were martyred and three were injured.

Unknown Organization Claims Syrian Bus Bombing

NC2610132788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] An organization calling itself "The Lebanese Struggle Organization" [Munazzamat al-Jihad al-Lubnani] has claimed responsibility for the explosion targeted against a Syrian military bus between the townships Anjar and Majdal Anjar in Al-Biqa area yesterday afternoon.

A spokesman for the organization said that the losses are much greater than the figure of 10 wounded which the Syrians admitted in its leakage to the media. He said that the Syrian bus received a direct hit as a result of the explosion of the estimated 75 kgs of TNT.

He added that the bus carried 50 Syrian occupation soldiers, most of whom received various wounds. The casualties, the spokesman said, could not be determined precisely because of the strong security cordon which the Syrians threw around the area.

Group Claims Rocket Attack on Syrians

NC2710100488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February organization has announced that one of its units carried out a rocket attack on a Syrian intelligence center in the 'Ayn al-Burj area in Al-Minyah. A spokesman for the organization declared that the target received direct hits which left many Syrian casualties. The spokesman added taht soon afterward Syrian troops conducted a wide-scale storming operation in the area.

New Command To Be Formed Under Syrian Control

JN2610183488 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Oct 88 p 17

[By Muhammad 'Anan]

[Text] Beirut—AL-SIYASAH has learned that secret political and military contacts are under way in Beirut at the highest level on the formation of a new military command for the five brigades that are stationed in areas which are under Syria's influence.

In this respect, AL-SIYASAH has learned that the new military command's first priority will be to reorganize these five brigades. It will then devote its attention to modernizing these brigades and supplying them with the most sophisticated weapons and equipment.

The new military command will also be responsible for the administrative and supply affairs of these brigades independently from Michel 'Awn's military command.

AL-SIYASAH has also learned that Colonel Sami al-Khatib, the former commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces, will head this new military command, and that Col Nabih Farahat will assume the post of director of intelligence in this command.

Hizballah Kidnaps Five Amal Members

NC2510210188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Seven Hizballah members led by Muhammad Jabir and 'Abbas Salhab entered May College in Hayy al-Karamah this afternoon. They tried to kidnap Haytham Amhaz after terrorizing the students with their weapons.

Meanwhile, Amal Movement member Mamduh Sa'd was kidnapped in the Bi'r al-'Abd area last night. Four other Amal members were kidnapped by a Hizballah group riding in a navy blue Volkswagen Passat bearing plate number 932840 in the Al-Ghubayrah area late last night. The group included Samir Kammunah and Khadr Hamdan. According to security information, the Amal members were taken to the Al-Tarbiyah school in Al-Ghubayrah.

Iran 'Radically' Cuts Hizballah Financial Aid

JN2710104088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Our correspondent has learned from informed sources in Jerusalem that Iran has radically cut its financial aid to its loyalist Hizballah Shi'ite movement in Lebanon. Our correspondent adds that this sharp cut has resulted in lowering the prestige of Hizballah in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the informed sources told our correspondent that Iraq is continuing its financial support for the Christian Lebanese Forces to enable them to continue their activities against Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Ba'th Party, YSP Sign Joint Accord 26 Oct

JN2610195788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Within the framework of cooperation between the two fraternal parties, an executive program for 1989 was signed tonight between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and the YSP. The program was signed for the ASBP by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, and for the YSP by Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau.

Following the signing both sides expressed their satisfaction with the results of this visit. They said the visit will contribute to the developing of brotherly relations between the two fraternal parties and countries. [passage omitted]

YSP Official Holds News Conference in Damascus

JN2610220688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP, has praised the pan-Arab role of Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting anti-Arab schemes and defending the Arab nation's rights, existence, and civilization.

At a news conference held this evening in the presence of the accompanying delegation and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus, Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad said: Arab Syria will adhere to its stands in defense of all honest Arab nationalists and the Arab nation's aspirations. Syria will continue its national role shouldering its responsibilities at this difficult time.

The YSP official reiterated the PDRY's support for Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon to safeguard this sisterly Arab country's unity, safety, and security from all schemes and plans aimed at partitioning it and creating sectarian petty states on its territory to serve imperialist and Zionist interests and further fragment the Arab nation.

At his news conference, Comrade Salih noted the achievements attained in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad on all levels. He affirmed these results are greater than they can be described and have become a reality to the Syrians. He said these achievements are an object of pride for the Arabs everywhere. These achievements are the result of efforts and sacrifices.

On the result of his visit to Syria, Comrade Salih Muhammad expressed his pride in this visit and the hospitality he was accorded. He said his meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and the senior officials were fraternal in the service of the Arab nation and its national and liberation objectives.

He noted that the fraternal ties between the two friendly countries will deepen each day toward strengthening their common struggle in all fields, particularly within the framework of reinforcing the progressive Arab front that is hostile to all alliances aimed at subjugating the Arab region to foreign hegemony and control.

The YSP official praised the results of the visit which was crowned by the signing of the party cooperation program for the coming period as well as the program of cooperation between the two womens organizations in the two fraternal countries.

Concluding his press conference, Comrade Salih wished the Syrian Arab people every progress and prosperity under President Hafiz al-Asad's revolutionary and wise leadership.

'Astonishment' Voiced Over Arab Hopes in Peres

JN2710091888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Abu Salim's Talk"]

[Text] Peace be upon you. There are things currently going on in the region which the Arab citizen, indeed, any honorable citizen in the world, views with astonishment, trying to find an explanation for them or an answer to his questions about them. One of these things is Arab, and even Palestinian, moves by some Arab and Palestinian symbols.

As these symbols have explained, these moves are in line with their conviction that if the Zionist Labor Party wins the forthcoming elections in the Israeli entity by a majority that enables it to form a government in the occupied territories, it will move toward a peaceful solution to the Palestine question and the conflict in the region in a way that will secure Arab interests and rights, recognize national and pan-Arab rights in Palestine, and meet Arab conditions for ending or solving the conflict in the region.

This Arab citizen, and any honorable citizen in the world, is hearing statements by the initiators of these moves that explain or analyze the stands or statements of the leaders of the Zionist Labor Party in a way that differs from or contradicts the truth. Sometimes they attribute to the Zionist Labor Party statements that none of the leaders of this party has ever made. These people also say they are arranging their affairs on this basis—that they have placed all their hopes and eggs in the basket of the Zionist Labor Party, which will resolve the question and return to us our national and pan-Arab rights. All that we should do is support this party and facilitate its tasks so it can win the elections and assume power in the occupied territories.

There is, therefore, no need either for achieving Palestinian national unity or continuing or escalating the Palestinian national struggle. There is no need to practice any struggle. There is no need for a PLO, a national charter, or PNC resolutions. There is no need for real struggling Arab solidarity, for any move, action, or call for unifying the ranks and efforts of the Arab revolutionary and liberation forces, or for Arab readiness on the basis of the inevitability and necessity of the military option.

These people even give the impression there is no need either for Arab summit resolutions or for reminding people of their pan-Arab commitments. In brief, these people have begun indirectly saying there is no need for the uprising in the occupied territories or the operations of the Lebanese resistance.

Indeed, they want indirectly to (?demoralize) all those who struggle against the Zionists, call for struggle against them, or arrange their affairs on the basis of struggle against them. They want to accuse all those who adhere to the Palestinian National Charter and the pan-Arab commitments arranged by the Arab summit resolutions.

Is this true? And on what do these people base their decisions? Given our experience with the Zionists and the Americans—and even their stands, statements, programs, and declared schemes—how can we believe this argument? These people justify their stands and moves by saying the international atmosphere, detente, and international inclinations toward solving regional problems and conflicts prevent us from acting otherwise. It is as though the Arab nation lacks the ability and resources to struggle and regain its usurped rights. It is as though this nation is yielding and handing the whole issue of this conflict, which hinges on its destiny, to other people.

If this atmosphere is not in our interest as some people say, then why should we place all our cards and wagers on the Zionists represented by the Labor Party? Can this be explained as other than a capitulatory trend? Can the stands and moves of these people be interpreted as anything other than their having impatiently waited for international circumstances and developments that they could explain as they please, making them excuses for capitulatorylinclinations?

National and pan-Arab duty demands that, if international cirmustances are appropriate or inappropriate as these people say, we should continue and escalate the struggle, gain achievements, and create facts to make the enemy and its allies feel endangered and force them to respond to right and justice.

The defeat of the hostile forces in Lebanon made some Jews in the occupied territories pose questions and express fears about their leaders' insistence on following the scheme of force and aggression as a basis for consecrating their entity, expanding in Arab territory, and forcing the Arabs to capitulate. Many of them have been saying this scheme or method has been having adverse results, as it develops in the Arab masses an awareness of the seriousness and comprehensiveness of the Zionist schemes against all Arab land. It pushes the Arab masses into joining the stream of struggle against the Zionists. Despite the human and moral losses during the invasion of Lebanon, this invasion triggered the Lebanese resistance.

The uprising of our people in the occupied territories and its extension to the territories occupied in 1948 made some Jews in the occupied territories discover the danger of the (?statements) by their leaders that they had wiped the name of Palestine and the Palestinian people from the political and geographical map and forced the Palestinians into surrender and that by their occupation of the Arab territories in 1967 they had taken a major step toward realizing their dream of a state extending from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Even the Camp David accords and the Israeli leaders' illusion they had neutralized the biggest Arab country or made it biased to them did not ensure them security, stability, and (?comprehensive) Arab capitulation.

We are required to deepen these positive facts and create new facts and climates forcing the Zionists and their allies to feel and be convinced that they have no alternative but to yield to Arab conditions and demands. All the peoples of the world who have endured ordeals similar to ours struggled, created facts, gained achievements and adhered to them and continued their struggle to expand and deepen these achievements. They placed before their enemies two choices: either to yield to their conditions [words indistinct]. We have an example: Had the Vietnamese wagered on the Democrats or the Republicans in the United States, their struggle would have stopped and they would not have benefited.

Have we been waiting for the Zionist Labor Party to assume power to capitulate to it? What is the difference between capitulating to the Likud Party and capitulating to the Labor Party? It is all capitulation. We wish these people would show us any single kind word in the Labor Party's election platform, conditions, or presentations that implies its readiness to recognize our national and pan-Arab rights.

Events have stressed that the continuing and escalating struggle with and confrontation of the enemy and creating facts and achievements is the only way to prompt many Jews to reconsider their caculations, feel the predicament their leaders have put them in, and feel the dangers their leaders are drawing them toward. On the other hand, acting and moving on the basis of pulling away from struggle and confrontation and showing readiness to (?concede) or bargain over national and pan-Arab rights is a deflection of the growing national and pan-Arab struggle and a call for desperation and capitulation.

It gives the Jews themselves in the occupied territories moral impetus and consecrates their convictions that the method, schemes, practices, and intransigence of their leaders have produced the desired result. It will deepen their support for their leaders and their practices.

Since the world was created, events of history have proved that those who discount peoples' interests and capabilities and those who delude themselves into thinking they can bargain over the rights and destiny of peoples have lost their wager and even themselves.

Afghanistan

Moscow Agrees To Discuss POW's With Mujahidin

BK2610140288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 26 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has agreed to hold direct talks with Afghan resistance leaders on securing the release of Soviet prisoners of war, diplomatic sources here said Wednesday.

The Soviet Ambassador to Islamabad Viktor P. Yakunin informed Pakistan of Moscow's decision to establish direct contact with the guerrillas during a meeting with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan here Wednesday, they said.

A source at the Soviet Embassy said the two men had discussed "mutual efforts to facilitate direct contacts of the Soviet representatives with the representatives of the Afghan armed opposition on releasing the Soviet POW's (prisoners of war) in their hands."

Earlier this year Moscow said that 313 Soviet servicemen had been listed as missing in action (MIA) in Afghanistan since the Soviet Union sent an expeditionary force into the country in 1979.

The Soviet Union agreed earlier this year to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by mid-February.

Further on Projected Talks

BK2610151688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 26 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has agreed to hold direct talks with Afghan resistance leaders on securing the release of Soviet prisoners of war, diplomatic sources here said Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Earlier this year Moscow said that 311 [as received] Soviet servicemen had been listed as missing in action (MIA) in Afghanistan since the Soviet Union sent an expeditionary force into the country in 1979.

The Soviet Union agreed earlier this year to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by mid-February.

Efforts to secure the release of Soviet POW's had been bogged down due to the the Afghan resistance's demand for direct talks with Moscow.

Mujahidin leaders had claimed they were holding "many Soviet POW's" but never gave exact figures.

The Soviet Union had never previously admitted the Afghan rebels as a party to the conflict and Moscow dismissed them as bandits.

The mujahidin did not sign the April 14 Geneva peace accords under which the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw some 115,000 troops from Afghanistan by February 15.

The peace pact was signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by the the Soviet Union and the United States.

After the signing of the accord leaders of the seven-party resistance alliance had said that discussions on Soviet POW's could not be held until the last Soviet soldier had left Afghanistan.

Local newspapers said here last month that an understanding had been reached between Islamabad and Moscow on the release of Soviet POW's held by the mujahidin.

But a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, while confirming that Islamabad was assisting the Soviet efforts, denied reports of an understanding as premature.

Stressing that there was no Soviet soldier on Pakistani soil, he said the POW issue must be sorted out with the mujahidin leaders.

It is believed that rebel groups are holding some 250 Soviet MIA's in Afghanistan out of the 311 listed by Moscow.

In August the Jamiyat-e Eslami resistance faction offered to release two Soviet soldiers it was holding but they refused to go back to their country.

One of the two told a press conference "we have joined the resistance to fight against communism" in Afghanistan.

The Soviet decision to hold direct talks with the mujahidin comes a few days ahead of a United Nations General Assembly debate on Afghanistan.

Observers said the Pakistani-sponsored U.N. resolution had been adopted on the basis of a consensus for the first time in nine years after an understanding reached with the Soviet Union.

Mujahidin reaction to the Soviet initiative was not immediately available.

Najibullah Confirms Attempted Military Coup

LD2710095988 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0910 GMT 27 Oct 88

["Pool item"—"Najibullah Confirms Attempted Military Coup"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Islamabad, October 27 (TANJUG)—Afghanistan President Najibullah confirmed rumors of dissatisfaction among several high-ranking Army officers and an attempted military coup, Radio Kabul said last night.

In a speech last week, Najibullah accused "some members" of the ruling National Democratic Party of Afghanistan (NDPA) of plotting to take power.

He said opponents of the national reconciliation policy tried to organise provocations in the country's Armed Forces despite a purge in the party last march and expulsions from the NDPA Central Committee in July.

Najibullah announced strict measures against such attempts and said those working against national interests would be expelled from the party and taken to court.

Najibullah Addresses Muslim Representatives

LD2610201088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Last night at Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the presidential office, Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, received the delegations who took part in the international Islamic gathering which was held in Kabul.

At the beginning of this meeting Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the results of the international Islamic gathering, current events in Afghanistan, and the Afghan position regarding the solution of issues surrounding Afghanistan.

The representatives of Muslims in India, Palestine, Egypt, Portugal, and Uganda, spoke and welcomed the proposal of Esteemed Najibullah. [sentence as heard]

At the end of the meeting Esteemed Najibullah answered questions raised by the guest delegations. He said: As far as preventing violations of the Geneva accords is concerned, I must say that the UN mechanism, which has a goodwill mission in Afghanistan, has not yet been effective. As far as the designs of the government of Saudi Arabia against us are concerned, I think—and let us follow this principle which is embodied in the UN Charter and in all international documents, and stated in the [word indistinct] of the Islamic conference—that it is the people's right to choose their own destiny and path.

Of course, in the house of God, without doubt, even with the goodwill efforts of the Saudi Arabian authorities, it is the Afghans who must solve their problems. Any other path or any condition proposed by another country for the Afghan people in Afghanistan will be a [word indistinct] condition and cannot be accomodated or lived with. It might be imposed on the people in a mechanical manner but will then be faced with problems and defeat.

I believe the Afghan people themselves should be the ones to establish a nonaligned, neutral, independent, and stable Afghanistan in a free atmosphere and in complete freedom.

Afghans can solve issues between themselves; and in this respect we will welcome the goodwill endeavor of any government or any brother.

If His Excellency Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government accomplish this task, if this task is fullfilled by Uganda or by any other fraternal country, we are ready and prepared to welcome these goodwill efforts.

Once again I express thanks that you give us this (?opportunity) [words indistinct]. I am deeply grateful.

I think you have followed the path of God in saying the facts and stating the truth. I hope that this will not be your last visit to our country. We have a poem in Pashto which says that affection is increased by visiting. Sometimes you visit us, and sometimes we visit you.

I am looking forward to your next visit in a peaceful and calm atmosphere when the blue sky of Afghanistan will smile on the face of our children, when there will be no more tears but only laughter on their faces.

3 'U.S. Advisers' Killed by Landmine in Paktia

LD2610160488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Three American advisers have been killed in the internecine clashes among U.S.- and Pakistani-backed extremist groups. They were killed when their car was blown up by a landmine planted by a rival extremist group in the Machalghu area of Seyyed Karam District, Paktia Province. Eight associates of Gulbuddin who were escorting the advisers were also killed. Light and heavy weapons in the car were also destroyed.

In armed clashes among the U.S.- and Pakistani-backed extremist bands of Mawlawi Nabi, Rabbani, and Gulbuddin, 10 people have been killed and 2 others wounded. In a clash in Kuhestan District of Herat on 13 October five people were killed and four wounded. In similar clashes in Vardak Province, two people were killed and six others wounded.

Pakistan Envoy Summoned Over Airspace Intrusion

LD2610185688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned at 1700 today, 26 October, to the Foreign Ministry and the following point was conveyed to him by the assistant in the First Political Department:

Despite repeated protests by the Republic of Afghanistan about violations by the Pakistani Air Force, reports received from the security sources of the country speak of persistent and repeated violations by Pakistan's Armed Forces. For example, one Pakistani jet entered the territory of Afghanistan in the area of (Azrow Kandaw) at a speed of 720 km per hour at 1120 on 23

October and carried out a 1-minute reconnaissance flight in the areas of (Goroko) and Torkan, Nangarhar Province and reentered Pakistani territory via (Spina Tchoka).

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan protests this violation by the Pakistani jet, and demands that Pakistan refrain from such actions which are against the principles of goodneighborly relations and accept international norms. Otherwise, responsibility for the grave consequences of these violations will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

107th Note on Pakistani Violations Submitted

LD2610205688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The liaison office of the Afghan Foreign Ministry reports that 107th note of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords was handed over this evening to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul.

Due informaton on five cases of violations of the Article 2, Instrument 1 has to be furnished. The office requested UNGOMAP to investigate the violation and report its findings to the related authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of UN secretary general.

Armed Forces Operations in Provinces Detailed

LD2610171588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] In continuation of the Armed Forces' mopping up operation in the Qandahar area against U.S.- and-Pakistan-backed extremist elements yesterday, 11 of the bands' cohorts were crushed in the (Tor Kotal) area. BAKHTAR's military section reports that during this operation eight criminals were wounded and one DShK machinegun and five hideouts were destroyed.

A report from Herat says that yesterday 20 saboteurs were crushed in the area of Herat city as a result of Armed Forces attacks. The report adds that during this operation two rockets, three mortars, three DShK's, two recoilless rifles, and five rocket launchers were destroyed and an arms and ammunition deopt was set on fire.

According to another report, yesterday a group of robbers were crushed while trying to rob people on the Mehtarlam and Alingar highways. As a result of the operation 3 criminals associated with U.S.- and-Pakistan-backed extremists were killed and 38 were wounded. Two enemy rockets, three mortars, and two recoilless rifles were destroyed in the operation.

A report from Jalalabad city says that a cache of arms belonging to the extremists was discovered in (Gerdikatch) in Gowshtah District. Two machineguns and thousands of rounds of ammunition for various types of arms were captured at their hideout.

Similarly, in continuation of the Armed Forces mopping-up operation 2 surface-to-surface rockets, 14 recoilless rifle shells, and a large amount of ammunition of various kinds was captured in the areas of Sorkh Rud and Chaprahar Subdistrict of Nangarhar Province.

Bangladesh

Burmese Guards Pursue Group Over Border; Kill 2

BK2710082588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 27 (AFP)—Burmese border guards pursued a group of ethnic Rohingya Muslims inside Bangladesh territory, killing two of them and wounding four others, a newspaper here reported Thursday [27 October].

The NEW NATION said the incident took place near Ukhiya border post of southeastern Cox's Bazaar District Wednesday, and that the Burmese intruded about eight kilometres (five miles) inside Bangladesh during the chase.

The paper, quoting unconfirmed reports said Bangladesh police arrested 12 Burmese, "presumably members" of the Burmese Border Security Force (BBSF) at the scene. The police also recovered the bodies, the paper said. Local officials could not be reached for comment.

An earlier report said Rohingya Muslim insurgents Monday killed two Burmese custom officials on the Bangladesh-Burma border.

India

Jammu-Kashmir Bomb Blasts Injure 3 People

BK2610155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three persons have been injured in bomb blasts in Srinagar since yesterday evening. A driver and a cleaner of a bus were injured today near Magarmalbagh when an explosion took place inside the vehicle. There were no passengers in the bus.

In the evening, the outhouse of the Doordarshan Kendra [television station] was damaged when some unidentified persons lobbed hand grenades on the structure. However, no one is reported injured or killed.

In an explosion near the Badshah bridge yesterday, one person was injured and the water main damaged.

Explosion Injures 18 Policemen

BK2710125788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 18 persons were injured, 6 of them seriously, in two powerful bomb explosions in Srinagar today. Ten people were injured when a bomb exploded in the busy Lal Chowk area shortly before noon. A car parked nearby was blown to pieces as a result of the explosion.

In the other blast, 18 policemen were injured when some unidentified persons hurled a petrol bomb on a police patrol in the Zaudagar area of downtown Srinagar.

Earlier in the morning, police fired a few rounds to disperse a stonethrowing mob at New Fateh Kadal area. The explosions forced the shopkeepers in some parts of the city to down their shutters. However, city and rural transport functioned normally and all government offices and banks worked as usual.

Bodies of 2 'Terrorists' Recovered in Punjab

BK2610151988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, nine terrorists and their harborers have been arrested since last night. Six of them were arrested in Amritsar District. They were involved in a number of killings and smuggling of weapons from across the borders. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their hideouts.

The bullet-ridden body of a hard-core terrorist, Harjinder Singh, alias Chinda, was recovered at Gurdaspur District and the body of another terrorist identified as Gurmukh Singh in Amritsar District. Two persons have been shot dead by terrorists in the state.

Commentary on U.S. Military Aid to Pakistan

BK2610123588 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Commentary by V.S. Maniam: "Need for Review of U.S. Policy Toward Pakistan"]

[Text] The appeal made in Washington by a visiting group of Indian parliamentarians during a meeting with the American State Department officials last week for a review of that country's military aid to Pakistan was by no means the first of its kind. Every minister, virtually every important official, visiting Washington in recent years, had made that appeal.

What had lent very considerable force to it lately is that the situation in Afghanistan, which was always cited as the reason for the military aid to Pakistan, has been been steadily changing. This is what Indian parliamentarians told the American State Department officials last week, namely that with the steady withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a review of the United States policy of military aid to Pakistan had become very necessary. For such a policy no longer had any justification whatsoever.

Two other points were also made by the parliamentarians. One was that some of the weapons received by Pakistan were clearly diverted by that country to the terrorists in Punjab. The second, an infinitely important point, was that American military aid to Pakistan was the cause of needless confrontations and tensions in the Indian subcontinent.

That plea did seem to (?reach home), for the American under secretary of state, Mr Michael Armacost, agreed with the Indian members of Parliament that with the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the main ground on which the current level of military aid to Pakistan was justified would not be there. But that recognition was not unequivocal, for in the same voice Mr Armacost is said to have stated that the United States would take a second look at its policy of military aid to Pakistan only after the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Also, while taking such a second look, the United States would have to bear in mind its long-term relationship with Pakistan.

Those qualifications, unfortunately, almost nullify the seeming American recognition of the need to reconsider its arms aid policy. But, candidly, the attitude behind those qualifications is not surprising. The United States has always looked upon aid to Pakistan as a means of defending what are described as vital American interests in this region.

What are the results of that kind of attitude? The American military-economic aid package to Pakistan was last year raised substantially. Against the previous package amounting to $3.4 billion, the aid package that came into force in October last year was $4.02 billion, about $1.7 billion of it in the form of military aid.

What are such aids comprised of? The dreaded submarine-launched Harpoon missiles, air-to-air Sidewinder missiles, and the like. There have also been talks that the aid might include early warning aircraft known as Airborne Warning and Control System and the latest destroyers known as Gearing class destroyers. Pakistan seems also to be now asking for the latest American tank called the M1-Abrams main battle tank, as well as maritime surveillance aircraft. According to some reports, Pakistani helicopters are already equipped with Exocet [as heard] missiles.

Does Pakistan really need all those sophisticated military hardware even for protecting American strategic interests? Is it not the past experience that weapons acquired by Pakistan have only been used against India? Also will not such massive aid boost the Pakistan military structure disproportionately? These points have been repeated again and again with growing concern to United States policymakers by India, but so far to no effect.

In fact, the phenomenal American military-economic aid package to Pakistan was put through last year even in the face of enlightened American objection that no aid could be provided to a country violating America's nuclear nonproliferation regulations.

This is the most shortsighted policy and potentially immensely harmful to America's own interests. Also with a growing improvement in superpower relations, there is no reason for America to trot out the old and flimsy excuse of defense of strategic interests. This was the plea voiced eloquently by Indian members of Parliament to United States Department [as heard] officials last week and it is time the latter heeded that plea, which is really a call to the United States to see reason.

Angolan President Leaves New Delhi 26 Oct
BK2610031588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The Angolan president, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos left New Delhi for home this morning at the end of his 3-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and senior officials.

Talking to our correspondent, Mr Santos said he had fruitful discussions with Indian leaders. Referring to southern Africa, Mr Santos said the two sides discussed steps to be taken in the future to accelerate the implementation of the UN resolution on Namibian independence.

Yesterday, the external affairs minister had a meeting with the Angolan president. They discussed the situation in southern Africa with particular reference to Namibia. There were also discussions on bilateral matters between the Angolan ministers accompanying Mr Santos and their Indian counterparts.

Joint Commission Meeting With Hungary Begins
BK2410162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The industry minister has underlined the need for increasing bilateral cooperation between India and Hungary and reducing the trade imbalance. Mr Vengala Rao was speaking at the Eighth Session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission which began in New Delhi today. He said there is great potential for joint ventures, production cooperation, two way trade, and utilization of scientific and technological talent.

The leader of the Hungarian delegation and the deputy prime minister of that country, Dr Peter Medgyessy, expressed the hope that the trade turnover between the two countries would be doubled in the next 2 years.

Later, Dr Medgyessy called on the finance minister, Mr S.B. Chavan. They reviewed bilateral, economic, commercial and trade relations. Dr Medgyessy also met the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe.

Parliamentarians Hail 'Glasnost,' 'Perestroyka'
BK2610161488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A majority of members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the External Affairs Ministry have unanimously hailed the Soviet policies of glasnost and perestroyka as of vital significance to the world and of special importance to India.

At the committee's meeting in New Delhi, the members said that the decision relating to multimember candidature and other signs of glasnost are symbolic of the dramatic break from the past. Changes taking place in the Soviet Union in terms of domestic policies have inevitable influence on the Soviet foreign policy as well.

Briefing newsmen this evening a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the members felt that as a firm and consistent friend of India for the last 40 years, developments in the Soviet Union could not but have repercussions in this country.

Expressing admiration for the courage, vision, and statesman shown by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, in charting a new path for his country, most of the members said that this has ushered in an era of domestic liberalization and detente in the realm of foreign policy.

Gandhi Views Future of Indo-Sri Lanka Accord
BK2710075388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The prime minister has expressed confidence that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement will not be disturbed. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said he has full faith in the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene. He was talking to newsmen at Pudukottai at the end of his 4-day tour to Tamil Nadu. Mr Gandhi said this when newsmen drew his attention to the reported statements of the ruling United National Party candidate for the coming presidential poll, Mr Premadasa, and the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader, Mrs Bandaranaike.

Referring to the Vanniyar community's demand for reservation of seats in state and central services, Mr Gandhi said a decision will be taken on their valid demands, which will also be acceptable to all other communities.

Mr Gandhi has since left for New Delhi. He was seen off by the state governor, Dr P.C. Alexander and other dignitaries.

Alternate Oil, Transit Route to Leh Completed
BK2510092588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The border roads organization has completed an alternative oil route to Leh. It will be thrown open to the oil industry from August next year. Indian Oil Corporation sources told UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] that

650 kilometer long Manali-Rohtang road will double the fuel supply to the strategic Ladakh region. It will also double the number of days Leh will remain linked with the rest of the country by road.

Microwave TV Link Inaugurated in Kerala 23 Oct

BK2410033688 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Television programs in Malayalam, originating from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra [center], are available to the people in northern parts of Kerala. This became possible following the inauguration of a microwave link connecting Trivandrum and Calicut. The link was inaugurated by the union minister for health and family welfare, Mr Motilal Vora on Friday [21 October].

The present relay from Calicut would cover a radius of 30 km. This will be extended to 80 kms in about a year. The union minister of state of information and broadcasting, Mr S. Krishna Kumar, who participated in the function, said over 150 more TV relay stations will be set up in the country in the next 12 months. This will provide one relay station in every district headquarters. He also said that the telecast time of Doordarshan will be increased to 18 hours per day and the duration of regional TV news bulletins will be increased to 15 minutes.

New TV Transmitter Operating in Madhya Pradesh

BK2710040488 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 GMT 88

[Text] A low power transmitter has become operational at Panna in Madhya Pradesh. It was inaugurated by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat. The new transmitter will bring into the expanding Doordarshan network some of the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh.

Iran

Musavi Addresses Islamic Unity Conference

NC2710082188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The conclusion of the second Islamic unity conference, the prime minister's address, and the resolution passed at the conference are the subject of our first news report.

In his address at the conclusion session of this conference, the prime minister alluded to the ambiguities in the world of Islam and said: Statistics indicate that the world of Islam is now stretched over 35 million kms and has 200 strategic ports, and 320 billion barrels of oil reserves. The prime minister referred to the Islamic world's potential and the Muslims' lack of awareness of these reserves and possibilities and said: The Islamic countries have resources that can play a decisive role in the world. Unfortunately, the Islamic world is ignorant of this.

The prime minister then embarked on a discussion of the term "unity" and how it has been abused until now and said: Nationalism has always been opposed to Islamic unity and we should wrest this weapon—which has been used to create discord in the Islamic world—from the colonialists. In another part of his address, Mir Hoseyn Musavi spoke on the importance of identifying the adversaries and said: We should reject the misconception that we cannot govern in the name of Islam. The foundation of an Islamic government became possible in our society, our nation transformed it into a reality.

At the conclusion of the second Islamic unity conference a 12-point resolution was read out. The resolution stated that participants in the conference recognized his eminence the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the most suitable person for representation and leadership, and as the pivot of the unity of the Islamic community, in view of his intelligence, his boldness in learning and in action, and his policymaking qualities. The resolution stressed the need to follow his guidance and decrees.

Participants also expressed their appreciation and gratitude toward his eminence the leader-designate, Ayatollah Montazeri, for declaring the unity week and hailed the services and efforts of all the 'ulema and thinkers who dedicated all their resources to promote unity and ameliorate the lot of Muslims in the course of history. They also expressed their support for the proposal by the speaker of the Islamic Majlis regarding the setting up of an international assembly comprised of well-known religious leaders from Islamic countries to study and resolve problems and promote unity among Muslims.

Participants also expressed their regret and indignation at the dissension present in the world of Islam stemming from the instigation and plots of the colonialists, and condemned the clashes in Lebanon and the sinister plan to dismember that Islamic country. They also declared their support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian Muslims, the Afghan people's resistance against the Soviet usurpists, and all Islamic movements.

They proclaimed their categorical support for the sincere and peaceseeking positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding UN Resolution No 598 and vehemently condemned Iraq's repeated obstructionism and its false pretexts, as well as genocide and use of chemical weapons, and called on the international and Islamic communities to exert pressure on Iraq to accept the resolution, which it falsely insisted upon earlier.

It was stated in another part of the resolution that the conference participants will ask all prominent figures of the Islamic world, as well as all the scientific and educational centers in the world of Islam, to protect Islamic youth from the onslaught of Western corruption, culture, and imported (?values) through united planning and coordination.

Similarly, all those involved in publishing and disseminating news and in the mass media of all Islamic countries were requested to refrain from including or disseminating matter derogatory to all that is held sacred by the Islamic sects.

Hungarian Premier Grosz Continues Visit

Briefed on Ties With USSR

LD2610122288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Our first news report is on the meeting between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Hungarian premier and his delegation. The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting, which was also attended by the deputy foreign affairs minister, the prime minister's political affairs deputy, and several Majlis deputies, Karoly Grosz conveyed greetings from the Hungarian president. He said: Hungary has supported the Islamic Republic of Iran's system since the early days of the Iranian revolution, and has praised its struggle against imperialism. He added: Although there is considerable consensus in principle in the Eastern bloc, there are also diverging views on many aspects. We have our own national and independent foreign policy and our relations with Iran demonstrate this. The Hungarian premier wants to expand existing relations.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and Majlis speaker, said: One of Iran's special characteristics is its anti-imperialist position. If the Eastern Bloc emphasizes its anti-imperialist position, which it does, it can be sure of finding a good friend in Iran. Our people have suffered many hardships during the last century; they have witnessed the negative impact of Western domination in all aspects of their daily life.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We intended to expand our ties with Eastern bloc countries after the revolution and this policy still holds. He then pointed to the USSR's regional role and said: The Soviet Unions's support for Iraq during the imposed war has had a negative impact on our relations and deeply saddened our people. Now that the problems of the war and Afghanistan are being resolved, we stand by our undertaking [as heard] and there is no reason why expansion of our relations should be hampered. We and the Soviet Union are neighbors with a long border. The creation of an independent country free from Western domination can determine regional geopolitics and be an example to the world.

Final Round of Talks With Musavi

LD2610174488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The regular expansion of bilateral relations, the need for implementation of the clauses of UN Resolution No 598, and the expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hungarian People's Republic in international affairs and in commercial, agricultural, and industrial exchanges, were emphasized in the final round of talks between the prime ministers of both countries.

In these talks, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi expressed appreciation for the successful efforts of the delegation members of the two countries in achieving positive results in the development of relations between the two countries, and said that the 32 meetings between officials of the two countries in the course of the past 24 hours demonstrate that the foundation for bilateral cooperation has grown and that the two countries are keen to improve their relations.

Mr Musavi praised the fact that the two countries have agreed to sign two memoranda of understanding in cultural and in other areas and thanked the Hungarian Government for undertaking to print the Koran in Hungarian for his forthcoming trip to Hungary. He considered that it is necessary for the two sides to recognize each other's cultural interests in order to to assist in the expansion of bilateral relations all the more.

The prime minister of Hungary thanked the government and people of Iran for their hospitality, and stated that the understandings reached between the two delegations in the political, economic, commercial, and cultural fields will assist the expansion of bilateral relations. He said: During this trip the Hungarian delegation became more familiar with the problems of the two sides in various areas which will be constructive in future moves. In conclusion, he wished success to the government and people of Iran and expressed the hope that he will host Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in Hungary in the near future.

Says Relations 'Warm, Friendly'

LD2610164288 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Hungarian Premier Karoly Grosz today expressed satisfaction at his talks here, describing them as constructive.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Grosz described relations as "warm and friendly" and felt assured there were no impediments in the way of expanding mutual relations.

Premier Grosz who is also chairman of the Hungarian Communist Party arrived here yesterday returning a visit by Prime Minister Musavi.

Hungarian exports to Iran reached dollars 120 million in 1987, consisting mainly of power generating and medical equipment, according to the Hungarian press.

Velayati said frequent contacts between Hungarian and Iranian officials are indicative of the two countries' friendly ties. The Islamic Republic attaches great importance to Grosz's visit, he added.

Meanwhile, Grosz and his entourage visited the carpet museum where some of the most precious hand-woven Persian carpets in the world. [incomplete sentence as received]

Meets Shafe'i, Kalantari

LD2610231688 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Industry and agriculture ministers and governor of the Central Bank held separate talks with the visiting Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz here today.

Expansion of mutual ties, industrial and agricultural cooperation and banking exchanges were topics discussed at the meeting.

Industry Minister Gholamreza Shafe'i announced Iran's readiness for export of non-oil goods to Hungary and said the two can cooperate in the manufacture of cables, rubber and glass. Hungary can also help Iran build cement and fruit packing factories, he added.

In a separate meeting, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari suggested to Grosz the sharing of the two countries' experiences in agriculture.

Regular sessions of the Tehran-Budapest joint economic commission would play an important role in this regard, Grosz replied.

Meanwhile Central Bank Governor Majid Qasemi discussed banking ties with the Hungarian premier. [passage omitted]

Nagy Meets With Besharati

LD2710084588 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gabor Nagy currently here on a visit accompanying the Hungarian prime minister met with Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Wednesday evening and described the visit of the delegation a success.

He called for overall expansion of Iran-Hungary relations.

Besharati told the Hungarian official that there existed no problem on the way of expansion of bilateral relations.

He said that all permanent members of the UN Security Council should back efforts of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

The Hungarian delegation arrived here Tuesday headed by Prime Minister and Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party Karoly Grosz.

Note of Understanding Signed

LD2710121588 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—The Hungarian prime minister and Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz and his accompaying delegation left here this morning winding up a 3-day official visit. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. The two prime ministers signed a note of understanding before the departure of the Hungarian delegation.

Earlier today Grosz met with President 'Ali Khamene'i and conveyed to him the "warm and friendly greetings" of the Hungarian president.

He described as very good and fruitful the result of his meetings with Iranian officials. He also reiterated his country's readiness to expand mutual ties with Iran in all fields.

Hungary, Grosz said, has been backing the efforts of the Iranian people and government ever since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution and has always called for a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war.

"I personally attach great significance to Iran's cultural heritage," Grosz said.

President Khamene'i thanked Grosz for the message and said Iran regards Hungary as a friendly country and hopes relations between the two republics will improve in cultural, political, economic and technical fields.

The president said Iran is in the phase of reconstruction and "we believe this is an important and long-term issue." He said the factor of time is very effective in reconstruction and "we attach importance to good, serious and deep ties with our friends, including Hungary."

On Wednesday Ministers of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'i and of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari as well as Governor of the Central Bank Majid Qasemi separately met with the Hungarian prime minister.

Expansion of Tehran-Budapest ties, industrial-agricultural cooperation and facilities for banking exchanges were discussed in the meeting.

Shafe'i declared Iran's readiness to export non-oil commodities to Hungary and cooperate with Budapest in construction of tyre, glass, cement and cable manufacturing factories and packing of fruits.

Kalantari expressed hope the two countries could utilise each other's experiences in agricultural fields including training of manpower, building of dams and drainage system.

Grosz said holding regular joint commissions for economic cooperation could play an important role in bilateral economic undertakings.

On long-term ventures, he said the two countries could use each other's experiences.

Qasemi said Iran-Hungary banking relations were in good status. He also informed Grosz of Islamic banking system, facilities provided to grant loans to industrial, technical and agricultural sectors as well as investments by banks in major economic projects.

Spanish Industry Minister Meets With Musavi

LD2610195588 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Premier Mir Hoseyn Musavi today lauded Spain's independent stance vis-a-vis the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi imposed war, and said "it is a good foundation for expansion of Tehran-Madrid ties." He told Spanish minister of energy and industry that Iranians are determined to rapidly reconstruct the country, and "we consider Spain a good partner towards this end."

Claudio Aranzadi who arrived here Monday to discuss prospects for the participation of Spanish firms in reconstruction projects, presented Musavi a message from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales.

Earlier in a meeting with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Spain's decision not to send naval units to the Persian Gulf during the "tanker war" was praised.

Premier Musavi expressed hope that coooperation would expand with the European Comunity (EC) when Spain takes on as chairman.

Spain is keen to help Iran during its reconstruction phase, said Aranzadi, adding that Madrid looks forward to further meetings with Iranian officials.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2710055388 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Spain's Minister of Industries and Energy Claudio Aranzadi left Tehran at the end a three-day visit and signing of a letter of understanding on Tehran-Madrid industrial cooperation.

According to the document concluded Wednesday afternoon by Aranzadi and Iran's Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi the two countries will cooperate in fields of food and petrochemical industries, building of refineries, power plants, cement and machine tools factories.

Iran is to export minerals to Spain and import parts needed in its industries from Spain.

Aranzadi who headed a 50-man economic delegation told IRNA prior to departure that his talks with the Iranian officials were fruitful and said they mark a turning point in Tehran-Madrid relations.

Spanish delegations will visit Iran next month to follow up the protocol signed between the two countries, he said expressing the hope that bilateral relations will be expanded further in future.

Nabavi also described the talks with the Spanish delegation as constructive. He said that the main objective of the visit was to explore possibilities for Spain's cooperation with Iran in post-war reconstruction projects.

Nabavi told IRNA that the volume and item of goods to be exported to Spain and imported from that country will be decided next month.

Help for Locust Threat Offered to Kuwait

LD2610212388 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, Oct. 26, IRNA—Iran has offered its expertise to Kuwait for combatting the potential locust threat to the Persian Gulf region.

Kuwait's agriculture and marine resources head Shaykh Ibrahim Duwayj Al Sabah today called on Charge d' Affaires Mohammad Forughi to express thanks for Iran's offer.

Hizballah on Overthrowing Lebanese Government

LD2610103888 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—A leading member of the Hizballah movement in Lebanon called on Muslims worldwide to support efforts for the overthrow of Michel 'Awn's renegade Christian government.

"The Lebanese Government is a stooge of Western colonialism and Israel and all world Muslims must support the Lebanese people's struggle for the overthrow of the Phalangist regime," Shaykh Subhi Tufayli said.

The Hizballah official was addressing hundreds of Muslim scholars and activists gathered in Tehran for a conference marking Shi'a-Sunni Islamic Unity Week on Wednesday.

He said all Lebanese Muslims believed in the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. "Muslim unity and solidarity will not be possible without the leadership of Imam Khomeyni under the banner of Islam," he said.

Last month Lebanon's Christian President Amin al-Jumayyil appointed Army Commander-in-chief General Michel 'Awn, a staunch Christian Phalangist, as head of a military caretaker government.

Most political groups have condemned the move which lacks parliamentary approval and instead back the government on Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, whom General 'Awn was to have succeeded.

Hizballah is most active among Lebanese forces in the fight against Israeli and Israeli-backed Lebanese militia who hold parts of southern Lebanon. Itself a Shi'a organization, Hizballah has good ties with the Sunni Tawhid movement led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban based in the northern port city of Tripoli.

Khamene'i Urges Military To Remain Alert

LD2610114688 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct. 26, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i warned here today that the Armed Forces should be on the alert for coping with unexpected future developments.

Khamene'i addressing Kordestan 28th Division here added the enemy intended to dismember Iran's Kordestan from the rest of the country. He said it was the devotion and morale of the military forces that saved the region from numerous troubles. Later on, President Khamene'i inspected the operational headquarters of the Division in Marivan.

President Khamene'i, who is head of the Supreme Defence Council, said the unity and cooperation shown by the Armed Forces and popular forces including Construction Jihad, Muslim Kurdish peshmergas, Gendarmerie, policemen, Islamic Revolution's Committees, and the Kurdish people of the region in defending the country was unprecedented in Iran's history.

President Khamene'i started his tour of western provinces of the country Saturday. He visited Bakhtaran, Ilam, West Azarbayjan, and East Azarbayjan Provinces before arriving here.

Departs From Sanandaj

LD2610175088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] This afternoon Mr Khamene'i left Sanandaj for Tehran. He was seen off by the representative of the imam in the region, clergymen, local government officials, and military and security force commanders. On leaving Sanandaj, the president praised the high morale of the fighters of Islam and the Muslim inhabitants of Kordestan, and expressed the hope that people will cooperate in peace time and the country will move further along the path of reconstruction.

He considers that the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq are slow but believes that the future of these negotiations is very positive. The president arrived in Tehran this evening at the end of this 5-day journey to the northwestern part of the country to the cities of Western and Eastern Azarbayjan Provinces and Kordestan.

Mohsen Rafiq-Dust Named Military Adviser

LD2610113788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, has issued a decree appointing Mr Mohsen Rafiq-Dust [former minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] as an adviser to the acting commander in chief on military and logistic industries affairs and the organization of the combatants. The text of the decree is as follows:

Your Eminence Mr Rafiqdust, in view of your shining experience and services, you are appointed to the post of adviser to the acting commander in chief on military and logistic industries affairs and matters pertaining to the organization of the combatants. After research and analysis, please report the situation of the above-mentioned affairs to me, along with your conclusions.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief

Oil Minister Briefs Cabinet on OPEC Meeting

LD2610154188 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the joint meeting of OPEC's pricing and long-term strategy committees in Madrid.

The cabinet decided that the Oil Ministry would firmly pursue its declared policy of opposing a production quota for Iraq equal to that of Iran.

Iraq's insistance on a production level equal to Iran's and massive over-production by the Iraqis has been a major cause of market weakness.

The joint meeting in Madrid failed to reach a decision on overall production levels, forcing prices down even further.

The cabinet also approved the formation of a joint economic commission between Iran and Argentina. Later in the session a bill on cultural, scientific and technical cooperation with Nicaragua was discussed.

Kashani Reelected Spokesman of Guardians Council
LD2610114888 Tehran IRNA in English 1111 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—The Guardians Council members in a session here Wednesday re-elected Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani as spokesman.

Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani was also chosen as secretary with Khosrow Bijani, a lawyer member of the council as vice-secretary.

The council has 12 members—six theologians and six lawyers.

Commentary on Research Development, Education
NC2210113188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "University Research: The Basis for the Strategy of Development in the Current Stage"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] After the cease-fire in a war that had been imposed on the Iranian nation for 8 years, a new phase started which, parallel with the new post-war phase, witnessed the commencement of theoretical discussions and deliberations in many research and expert circles on the process of reconstruction and the development of the Iranian society. The approval of the plan for the country's general strategy on research can be of special significance at this sensitive and vital phase. It also can overcome many of the legal obstacles impeding research projects.

The basis of many of the research projects—whether in basic science or human science—is found in the centers of higher education, in other words, in the universities. The major unending resources of the universities are the students, who are the raw, creative, and active elements of the country's research in all its dimensions. Therefore, the country's scientific and cultural future is contingent upon the future of thousands of knowledge-seeking youths in the universities.

In recent years, we have observed the indifference shown by some students due to a variety of reasons, including social problems and cultural difficulties within their society. This problem can have a negative impact on the growth of Iran's society in the scientific, cultural, and research fields. Thus, by attaching importance to the alert and sensitive youths and by creating favorable educational and research possibilities at the universities, we can strengthen the spirit of initiative and creativity.

Because, on the one hand, the people with the highest intelligence are chosen on the basis of the university entrance examinations, many of society's average talents will definitely be isolated. On the other hand, the stagnant system of the university entrance examinations has prevented many people from having access to the fields of their choice and has forced them to continue their education in areas in which they have no interest. Such a situation ultimately robs them of the spirit of creativity and research. Therefore, the expansion of state universities and the increase in the number of scientific cadres should top the list of objectives of the country's research strategy. [passage omitted]

Actually, research in the universities is obstructed today as a result of the weakness of the research system and the absence of a culture of research, as well as the lack of sufficient experience by some of the research programmers. However, even more important than these elements is the strict bureaucracy, which pits students and their thousands of hopes, wishes, goals, and initiatives up against red-tape, desks, offices, and seals.

The solution to the problem of research at the universities requires an increase in scientific resources and in the capabilities of centers of higher education. The libraries of many of the universities in Iran do not comply with world and academic standards, and the existing resources in some cases are old and unusable. The students are in vital need of new resources, books, and scientific publications from other countries in order to carry out their research. This means that steps must be taken to establish constant contact with the world's scientific circles so that newly published scientific material in the advanced countries can reach the hands of the knowledge-seeking people.

Parallel with this, importance also should be attached to research by students. We have observed the unprecedented attention which has been given to important research which students have carried out and which state or private scientific circles has sponsored in many countries of the world. This research is sometimes even purchased, in which case the student has not only provided scientific services to mitigate some of the society's problems, but also has received a good income as well.

Once academic and university sciences begin to serve society, once science and practical work join hands in research and a logical link is established between the research projects of organizations and of universities, once nongovernmental sectors provide some of the financial expenditures, and once the fruits yielded by the research during the 8 years of war are generalized, students and universities will find their scientific place in society and in its development and will serve the revolution and its objectives more zealously.

RESALAT on Importance of 'Military Doctrine'
NC2510050988 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Akbar Naqavi editorial: "The Foundation and Strategy of Defense"]

[Excerpts] If someone had pointed out the urgency of military reconstruction before Imam Khomeyni had termed it a priority, this would not have received much

attention. In fact, some would even have objected to it, because after the cease-fire the focus was more on economic matters, on the search for ways to alleviate the people's problems, particularly the barefoot ones. This is the case even now, as it has its own special importance. In such an atmosphere, the issue of the arms industry and weapons manufacture or the formulation of a "military doctrine" for the Islamic revolution to combat the designs and plots of the world devourers would have been relegated to oblivion in the form of a corpus of fragmented slogans.

These slogans in practice would not incorporate any guarantee for implementation and with the passage of time, would be at best forgotten. However, the alertness of the imam and his timely warning that priority must be given to "the expansion and development of the arms industry and the weapons needed for the defensive strength of the country" in the reconstruction process during the aftermath of the war removed many ambiguities and delineated a clear and vivid outlook in this regard. [passage omitted]

What is uppermost in the minds of our domestic military experts and high-level officials today is that all resources should be mustered and all multilateral potential tapped in order to build the foundation of a "deterrent strategy" and an "onslaught strategy" of the Islamic revolution in the light of the experience gained from our holy defense and the imam's directives. It is obvious that the degree of success attained in this area and in the establishment of a precise place for it in the country's affairs would determine the capabilities of the Islamic revolution and reduce difficulties in its multilateral struggle in the future.

In this context it would be worthwhile to consider that what enables the United States and the Soviet Union to embark on bilateral talks on how to shamelessly divide the world is their power and strength, based on their possession of lethal weapons. [passage omitted]

In a world with such a ruthless system, the resolution of economic problems should never detract from the importance of "military organization" and the formulation of a "military doctrine."

Apart from this, the present trend in regional developments point to the fact that we are in a state of "no war, no peace." There is a sort of "cold war" between Iran and Iraq. In addition, there is the nature of the aggressive Ba'thist regime of Iraq, and these are all logical reasons which dictate that Iran cannot afford to neglect its "military doctrine," nor should it do so. Nor can it afford to live in a state of constant apprehension of foreign aggression. It should be borne in mind that such a situation (that is, a situation in which the military doctrine is ignored) would create an atmosphere conducive to the isolation of the Islamic revolution and its elimination from the political scene, particularly the regional political scene. [passage omitted]

ETTELA'AT Comments on Economic Malpractice

NC2610183288 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Oct 88 pp 2, 4

[Unattributed editorial: "Investigation Into Various Aspects of a Dossier"]

[Excerpts] The public indictment in an Islamic Republic court of a case of massive misappropriation by members of the Nabuwwat Foundation once again removed the veil camouflaging the face of various extremely unhealthy economic trends in our society. This dossier is not being reviewed merely to remove this veil. The fact is that the actual culprit in the Nabuwwat Foundation case is the one who had the most opportunity to commit the crime and is unfortunately part of our country's present economic system, which cannot be discussed legally in a court of law.

The discrepancies in the country's present official procedures, whose shortcomings and errors have occupied the major part of government efforts to create a healthy social and economic system, cause such fungi to mutiply and proliferate because they are far removed from the life-giving sunshine of public supervision. In the darkness, these parasites pillage the wealth of society and erode its capabilities. This trend is still rampant in our society. [passage omitted]

Regrettably, in the past few years the government has been unable to equip society's departmental structure to combat the growth of such trends due to all mental and material resources' being diverted to the war. Therefore, under the guise of popularity and without any fear of the drastic consequences, the fiend of corruption was able to spread his spores everywhere by capitalizing on the fluid situation in government departments and by managing to escape the scrutiny of and exposure by the press.

To quote a deputy prime minister, the presence of widespread corruption in most government departments comes from amalgamating these departments with the private sector. It may be added that in most of these private organizations, corruption already existed. When these organizations became affiliated with the government departments, they led the public to believe that their organizational, economic, or commercial deficiencies were the fault of the government or even the Islamic Republic's leadership.

Thus, numerous organizations have donned an ostensibly religious guise and are capitalizing on accruing benefits. Some of these organizations have been so successful in projecting an image of legitimacy that they have not applied to register their companies or demanded any documents for permission to operate. No one even bothered to question their past years of activity! [passage omitted]

In conclusion, it may be noted that the limits of a person's jurisidiction should be specified in order to guarantee the correct operation of the department under his supervision. At present, the boundaries of an individual's jurisdiction in society have been obliterated. It should be known that each individual is responsible for his own performance, as well as having a greater responsibility for answering for the performance of those functioning under his command. Is this so in our society?

A few years ago, a news report was published in ETTELA'AT stating that an official of the Commerce Ministry had, during less than a year in office, appropriated $1,850,000 in bribes from Japanese, Korean, Turkish, and Yugoslavian firms. Of this, $750,000 alone was from a Japanese company! Unfortunately, press efforts to track down the individual responsible did not yield results due to the insistence of the Commerce Ministry officials then in power on silence. Incidentally, at the same time, a minor report was carried in ETTELA'AT that the Indian defense minister had resigned because one of his subordinate Defense Ministry officials had gotten a commission in an arms deal!

Hence, the general and legal delineation of the limits of jurisdiction increases control and supervision of the performance of high-level government officials and in turn strengthens the public sector. Past experience has proven that if such control and supervision is bolstered by the media's vigilance, it can provide a suitable guarantee for control of corruption in governmental and non-governmental sectors.

The trial of the engineer who heads the Nabuwwat Foundation represents the surgery and removal of a cancerous sore from the skin of our society. Are there not many more such abscesses?

IRGC Commanders Reportedly Arrested, Executed

TA2610150688 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] A report from Tehran indicates that the Islamic Republic regime has detained and arrested 120 to 150 IRGC commanders who were opposed to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. This report indicates that some of these commanders have been executed as Mojahedin members on orders of the regime.

'Scores' of Opponents Executed

TA2610194688 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Reports from informed sources indicate that in recent weeks the Islamic Republic has executed scores of the Islamic regime's opponents in Rasht and Bandar-e Pahlavi. According to another report in this connection, the regime has also executed scores of its opponents, under the pretext of being Mojahedin members, in Mashhad, Bushehr, Arak, Khvoy, Sabzevar, Esfahan, and Reza'iyeh.

It is being said in Tehran that some of those executed were IRGC commanders who were sent to the firing squads by the Islamic regime ruling in Iran charged with affiliation with the Mojahedin.

Pakistan

'Bomb Blast' Kills 1, Injures 15 in Lahore

BK2610153488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Sixteen people were injured due to a bomb blast near the Setala [Hindu] temple at Shah Alam Chowk in Lahore this afternoon. The bomb was placed in a tonga. The injured were rushed to the hospital one of whom succumbed to his injuries.

General Beg on Regional Ties, Indian Threat

BK2610162088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Chief of the Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg has said that the geopolitical environment in the region calls for a strategic consensus between Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and Turkey. Speaking to student officers at the Command and Staff College in Quetta today, he said that this consensus will prove to be a vital means for security and stability in the region.

He said that new situations are evolving in the northwestern areas that will affect this country as well. He said that we already have very strong historical, cultural and ideological ties with Iran and Turkey, and a new relationship has developed between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan which demands such a consensus.

On the role and functioning of the Pakistani Armed Forces, Gen Beg said that the Armed Forces of a country is used only in situations determined by security considerations and threats. He said that as far as the external dangers are concerned, in the West, Pakistan has very friendly relations with Iran and China, and peace will be established on the [Pakistan-Afghanistan] frontiers with the settlement of the Afghan issue.

However, Pakistan is faced with difficulties on its northern frontiers due to India's hegemonistic designs. He said that unless India gives up these designs, conflict and confrontation on these frontiers will continue. He said that the build-up of India's Armed Forces and its intervention in Sri Lanka is clear proof of its hegemonistic designs which threaten the independence and sovereignty of smaller neighboring nations.

The Armed Forces chief said that we must maintain a state of preparedness because of the danger in our eastern borders and we make wholehearted efforts to strengthen our military power so that we can defend our country and foil any aggression.

He announced that the Pakistani Armed Forces are fully capable today to fulfill this mission and defend the country. He said that the steps being taken are aimed at achieving the objective of making Pakistan capable of dealing with internal and external threats.

Warning on 'Political Dissent'

BK2610165088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Turning to the internal situation, General Beg said Pakistan presently was faced with serious internal threat which emanated from reasons of political dissent, economic disparities, (?new) political problems and external pressures. Of these, he said, political dissent was the most serious matter which directly affected the integrity and unity of the country.

He said such political dissent in the past resulted in the drastic consequences as we exercised military options to resolve political problems such as the East Pakistan of 1970-71 and Baluchistan of 1974-75.

He said the present situation in Sind was a result of political and economic problems. He expressed the hope that the government coming into power after the 16th November election will resolve this issue amicably and politically.

Formerj Punjab Governor Granted Bail by Court

BK2710085588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the jailed prominent political leader, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khar, has been granted bail by the Lahore High Court. He is expected to be released shortly. Mr Khar is a former chief minister and governor of Punjab, who was convicted by a military court in 1979.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene: Government 'Willing To Step Down'

BK2610131588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Colombo, Oct 26 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene said Wednesday his government was willing to step down after 11 years in power and hold general elections with the co-operation of the opposition.

"I agree that Parliament should be dissolved and the presidential and general elections should be held under a caretaker government," Mr. Jayewardene said in a letter to the island's Buddhist leadership.

The country's influential Buddhist hierarchy demanded Sunday the immediate dissolution of Parliament and early general elections to end continuing political killings in the island nation.

The response by the 82-year-old president came as anti-government Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) staged sporadic strikes in most parts of the country Wednesday.

Mr. Jayewardene's office released a copy of his letter to four Buddhist leaders. It called for the cooperation of the clergy to bring the JVP to a dialogue with the government and defuse tension in the country.

"I am happy to inform you that dissolving Parliament and appointing a caretaker government to ensure free and fair elections will be done in accordance with the Constitution," the letter said.

Political analysts here noted that it was the first time Mr. Jayewardene has publicly announced his willingness to dissolve Parliament, an issue which had united all sections of the opposition.

Elections commissioner has already announced that presidential elections will be held on December 19 and the government has said it will hold early parliamentry polls, but no dates have been mentioned.

The ruling United National Party (UNP) has remained in power since 1977 by extending the term of Parliament through a 1982 referendum instead of a general election.

Under the Constitution, general elections are due by July next year.

The JVP, which is violently opposed to the government, has been accused of killing over 500 ruling party men, security personnel and left-wing opponents in the past year. The group is a recognised political party, but its leaders have gone underground and are leading a hit-and-run campaign against the government in a bid to force it to resign.

The JVP is opposed to a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign and under which New Delhi has some 49,000 troops in the island's north and east.

Agrees to Caretaker Government

BK2610145088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1350 GMT 26 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 26 (PTI)—The president, in his reply to the four Buddhist clergy, today said he himself and the government would agree to the proposal of the religious leaders and would announce the date for general election also but made his offer conditional saying that "party leaders and people should be disciplined".

Pointing out that the date for the presidential election has already been announced, Mr Jayewardene in his reply to the four Buddhist Mahanayeka, Theras said he

himself and the government would agree to the proposal to announce the election dates immediately and hold the presidential and general elections under a caretaker government after dissolving the Parliament.

"This will be done in accordance with the Constitution", he said. The president said the government and his party was willing to conduct a just election by discussion with leaders of other political parties. The president said he himself and the government were in total agreement with the proposal of the Buddhist clergy that party leaders and people should be disciplined.

The four Buddhist Mahanayekas of Malwatta, Ramanna Nikaya and Wmarapura Maha Sanghas [names as received] had in a memorandum to the president demanded immediate dissolution of Parliament and holding of presidential and parliamentary elections under a caretaker government.

Credibility in 'Grave Doubt'

BK2710092288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 27 Oct 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (AFP)-Sri Lanka's opposition Thursday rejected a government promise to step down and demanded "concrete results", saying President Junius Jayewardene's credibility was in "grave doubt."

A seven party opposition alliance and another Marxist party asked for the unconditional dissolution of Parliament and expressed skepticism over Mr. Jayewardene's stated willingness to stage early elections under a caretaker.

The 82-year-old leader agreed Wednesday to a demand by the country's Buddhist leadership to step down after 11 years in power in a bid to end political unrest with the cooperation of the opposition.

The opposition Liberal Party which is a close ally of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and a member of the seven party grouping, said it was not clear if strings were attached to Mr. Jayewardene's offer.

But a senior minister said the dissolution was clearly tied to the JVP (Janatha Vimukti Peramuna or People's Liberation Front) giving up its violent campaign against the government and joining the democratic mainstream.

"I anticipate your counsel and the active support of political parties to persuade the JVP to join in this course of action," Mr. Jayewardene told the monks.

The minister commented, "We cannot dissolve Parliament and allow MP's to go to their villages with JVP men roaming around freely with their arms. The JVP must first give up their violence," the minister said.

However, another member of the alliance, the Eksath Lanka Janatha (United People's) Party (ELJP), argued that once the government stepped down, the violence will automatically cease.

"The violence is the result of the government remaining in power without a clear mandate from the people. Once Parliament is dissolved there will be no cause for violence," ELJP leader Rukman Senanayake said.

He welcomed Mr. Jayewardene's remarks as a "step forward" but said the president's credibility was "in grave doubt" and the promise would be "meaningless" unless it was fulfilled immediately.

"The president should first dissolve Parliament and announce the election. Then there will be an enormous chance of our influencing the JVP to give up their campaign," Liberal Party leader Chanka Amaratunga said.

He said the alliance is due to meet with Mr. Jayewardene for a second round of talks later Thursday and they will seek a clarification on the letter.

His party cannot give a "cast-iron guarantee" that the JVP will come round, but it would be easier to influence the group if the government showed "concrete results insted of promises," Mr. Amaratunga said.

The Marxist Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society Party-NSSP) said Mr. Jayewardene was probably thinking that the JVP will not respond and the government can continue.

"It's a very sharp tactical move and a fair gamble by the president. No one can blame him now because he has gone as far as he was asked to," NSSP leader Vasudeva Nanayakkara said.

Demand for early elections is an issue which had united all sections of the opposition.

The elections commissioner has announced that presidential polls will be held on December 19, and the government had said it will stage early parliamentry balloting though no dates have been mentioned.

Under the Constitution, general elections must be held by July 1989.

The ruling United National Party (UNP) has remained in power since 1977 by extending the term of Parliament through a 1982 referendum instead of a general election.

The JVP is a recognised political party, but its leaders have gone underground and are continuing a hit-and-run campaign against opponents in a bid to force the government to resign.

The group also opposes a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign and have been accused of killing over 500 UNP supporters, security personnel and leftists backing the pact.

In 1971, the group led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Police said Thursday that since Wednesday JVP militants had shot dead six people, including a policeman, a leftist politician and two supporters of the UNP.

The violence came as a one-week unilateral truce declared by the government came to an end, after apparently being ignored lby the JVP.

Government Warns Against 'Subversive' Rumors

BK2610124888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1142 GMT 26 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—The government today warned the public against rumors being spread by subversives to create a fear psychosis in their minds following the total failure of subversives to create a breakdown in law and order and also failure to coerce workers to be used by them in their attempts at subversion, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said that in industrial areas such as Mount Wavinia and Ratmalana the new security system of "ring" or local curfews, which were enforced in the perimeters of these sectors and in the railway workshop, also allowed the free flow of legitimate motor and pedestrian traffic, which won the confidence of the public.

Police Open Fire To Disperse 'Rioting Mob'

BK2610124288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1146 GMT 26 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—Police were forced to open fire today at Eppawela 180 kilometers from Colombo in the North Central Province in order to bring under control a rioting mob of about 5,000 persons.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that a local curfew had been imposed and the area was now being heavily patrolled by police and security forces.

Meanwhile at Homagama, 24 kilometers from Colombo, the police dispersed a rioting mob using tight crowd control methods.

In the Ratmalana, Mount Lavinia areas police thwarted attempts of sabotage and anti-government demonstrations planned by subversives who had wanted to enter factories and force workers into acts of subversion.

Police used the novel method of introducing local curfews on the perimeters of the industrial areas and the Ratmalana railway workshop while allowing the lawful public to carry on their normal life including the use of highways.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that life in Colombo and its suburbs were normal and office workers and even housewives braved subversive threats and carried on their normal day to day duties.

Reportage on Explosion, 'Terrorist' Incidents

BK2610124488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1147 GMT 26 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—A doctor and two other civilians were killed in an explosion in Vavuniya yesterday.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that three civilians, including a doctor named Wasantha Narathan, were killed in a bomb explosion at 1815 hours (local time) yesterday at the DHS [expansion unknown] office in Vavuniya in the Wanni sector.

They said that an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldier in an IPKF camp close by also received injuries caused by the explosion.

In Achchuveli, in the Jaffna sector, an IPKF soldier was killed and a terrorist wounded in an exchange of fire with terrorists yesterday.

Two terrorists, named Shanmuganathan and Murthy, were killed and two other hardcore terrorists, named Aiyya and Kujikannan, apprehended along with a hand grenade by the IPKF patrols in the Trincomalee sector yesterday.

A report from the Jaffna sector states that four terrorists were apprehended by the IPKF in operations at Chavakachcheri west of Puloli and the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday.

Kandaswami Srikant alias Parsana was captured by an IPKF patrol in the Vavuniya town yesterday.

In the Ampara-Batticaloa sector, about twenty terrorists robbed Jasimah [as received] of her valuables estimated at Rs. [Rupees] 9,000 in Pottuvil. An IPKF patrol pursued these terrorists and apprehended three of them.

The IPKF patrol apprehended Raja of Justin Group, a hardcore terrorist and six others, north west of Batticaloa.

A terrorist named Balu in Pondiruppu and one terrorist named Sachidananda alias Taoriya were captured along with one motor cycle.

Indian troops also seized 500 grams of cyanide powder, some medicine and documents at a point south west of Batticaloa yesterday. Meanwhile, four civilians were abducted by unidentified armed terrorists at Nedunkulam in the Wanni sector yesterday. One of the civilians escaped. The others had been assaulted and released subsequently.

Indian Forces Kill 2 'Terrorists,' Arrest 6
BK2710105188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1028 GMT 27 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Two terrorists were shot dead and six apprehended in operations conducted by Indian troops in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern sectors yesterday.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] shot dead two terrorists who are suspected of having detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) in the health services office building complex in the Wanni sector yesterday.

They said that three other terrorists were also apprehended by the Indian troops in connection with the same incident.

In the northwest of Omanthai in the Wanni sector, one terrorist was wounded during an exchange of fire.

Indian troops recovered tarpaulin, three torches and some cooked food.

A report from the Jaffna sector states that two terrorists, named Bala Singam alias David and Ganesh Singam alias Victor, were captured by the IPKF in the south of Point Pedro yesterday. One hand grenade and one cyanide capsule were also recovered.

In the northeast of Zluthu Mudduval, 300 metres of wire were found by Indian troops in the site where terrorists activated a claymore mine.

Two civilians, Sivaraj Pillai and Sada Guranathan, were shot dead by unidentified persons at Kokkuvil and Thondamannar yesterday.

Senasudhakaran, an LTTE terrorist, and an LTTE supporter Chinathambi Raj, alias Kodiswaran, were captured from Jayantipur and Karaitivu town in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector yesterday.

Meanwhile, four Muslims were abducted by armed terrorists in Pawakkulam in the Wanni sector yesterday.

The sources said that villagers had later found the bodies of the four abducted persons.